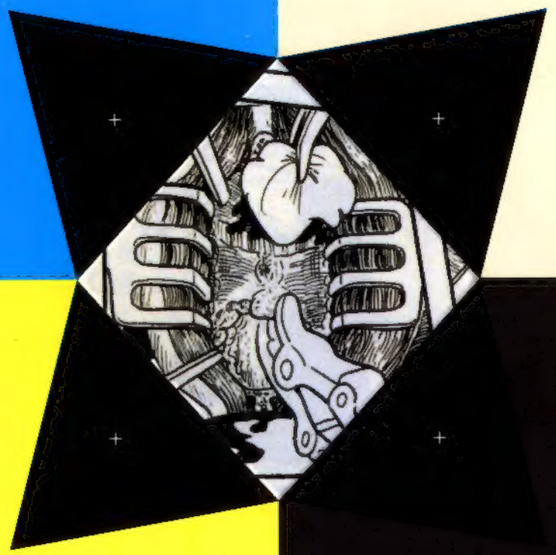
Black

Jack



Osamu

Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 1

BLACK JACK [TEZUKA]

VOL.1

VERTICAL

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //

From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Kimba* comes the epochal work that has been the God of Manga's most popular series among adult readers in Japan and most anticipated stateside release in recent years. *Black Jack* chronicles the travails of an enigmatic surgeon-for-hire who is more good than he pretends to be.

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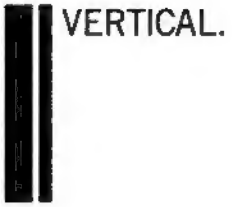
Black Jack

Volume 1

Osamu Tezuka



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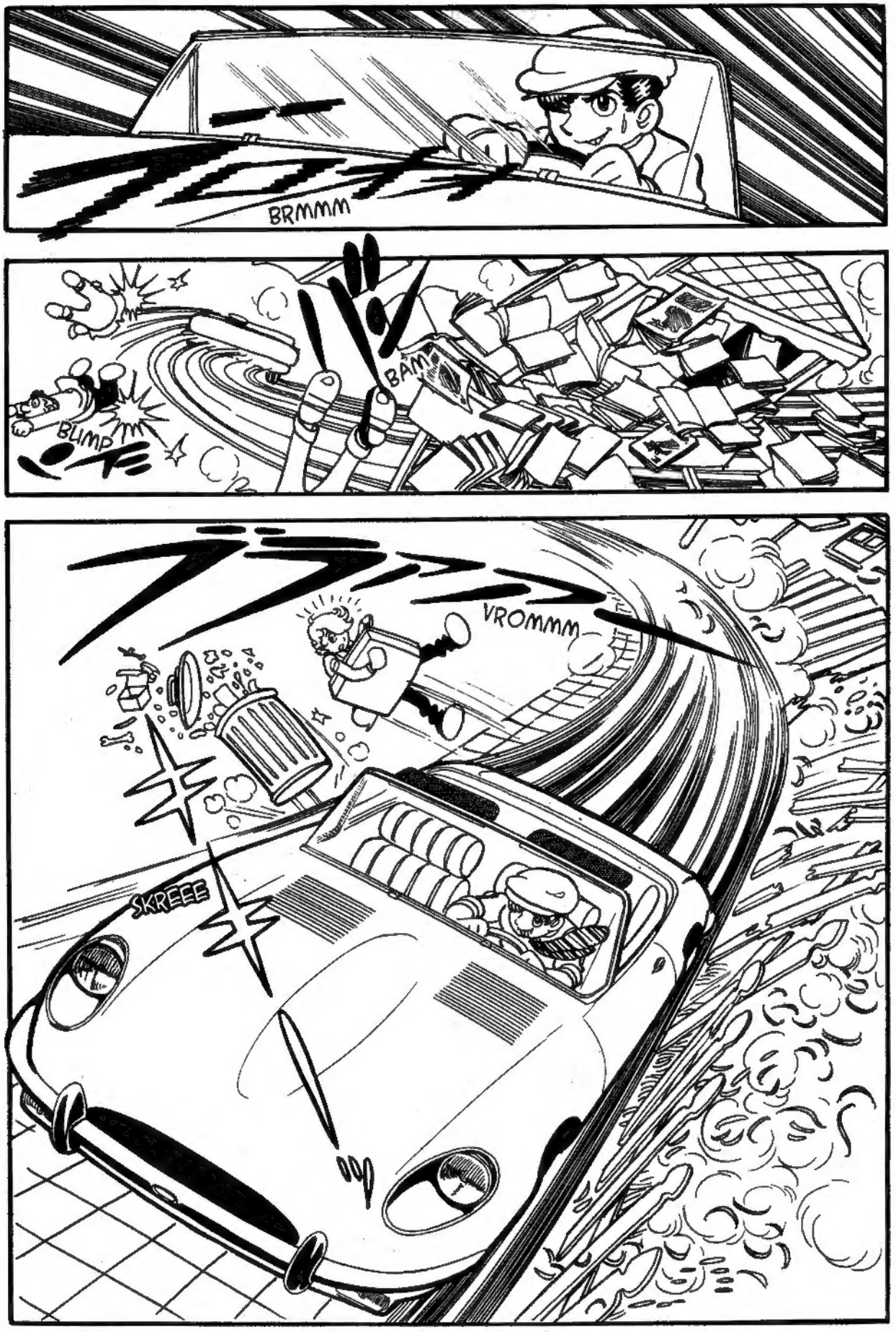
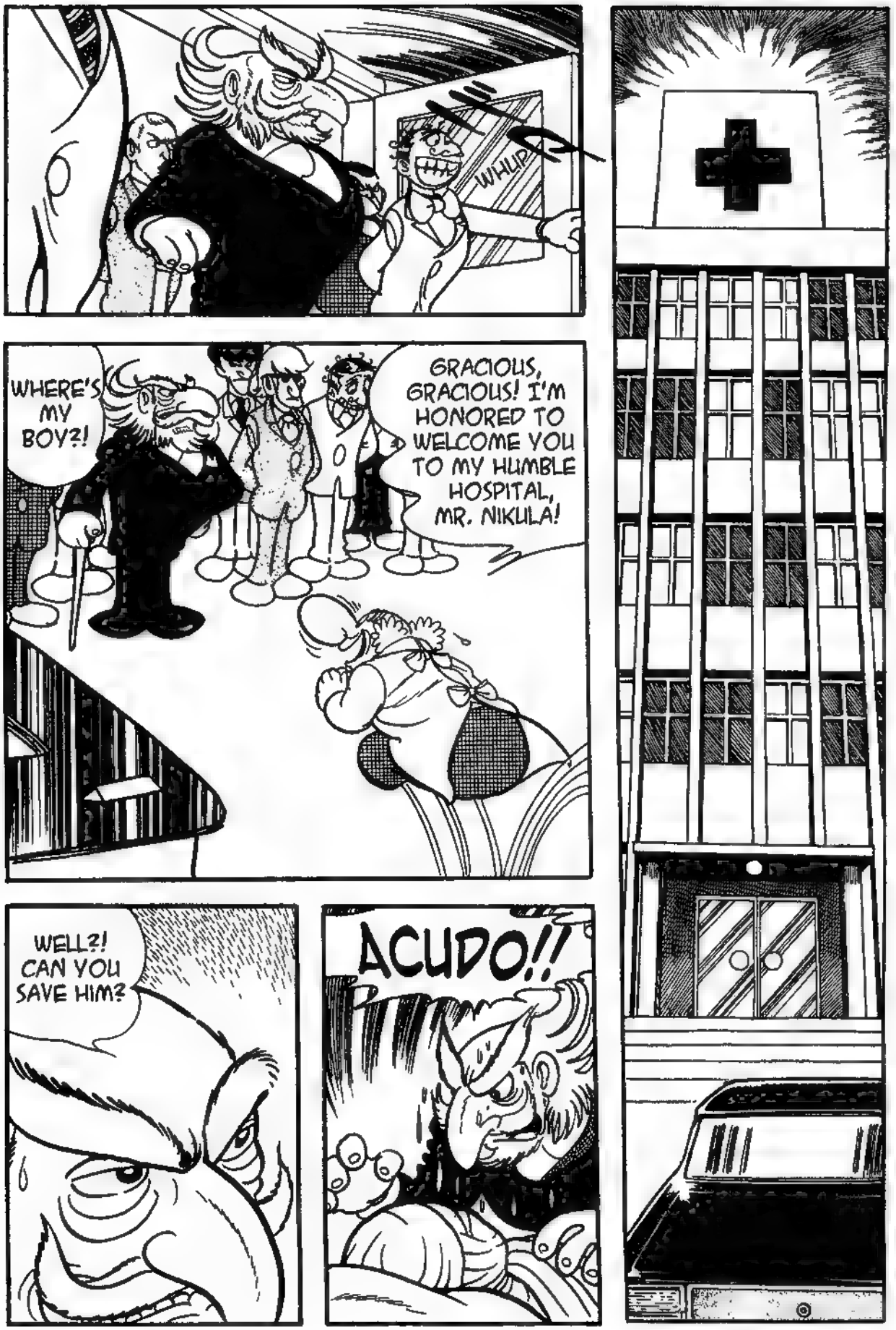
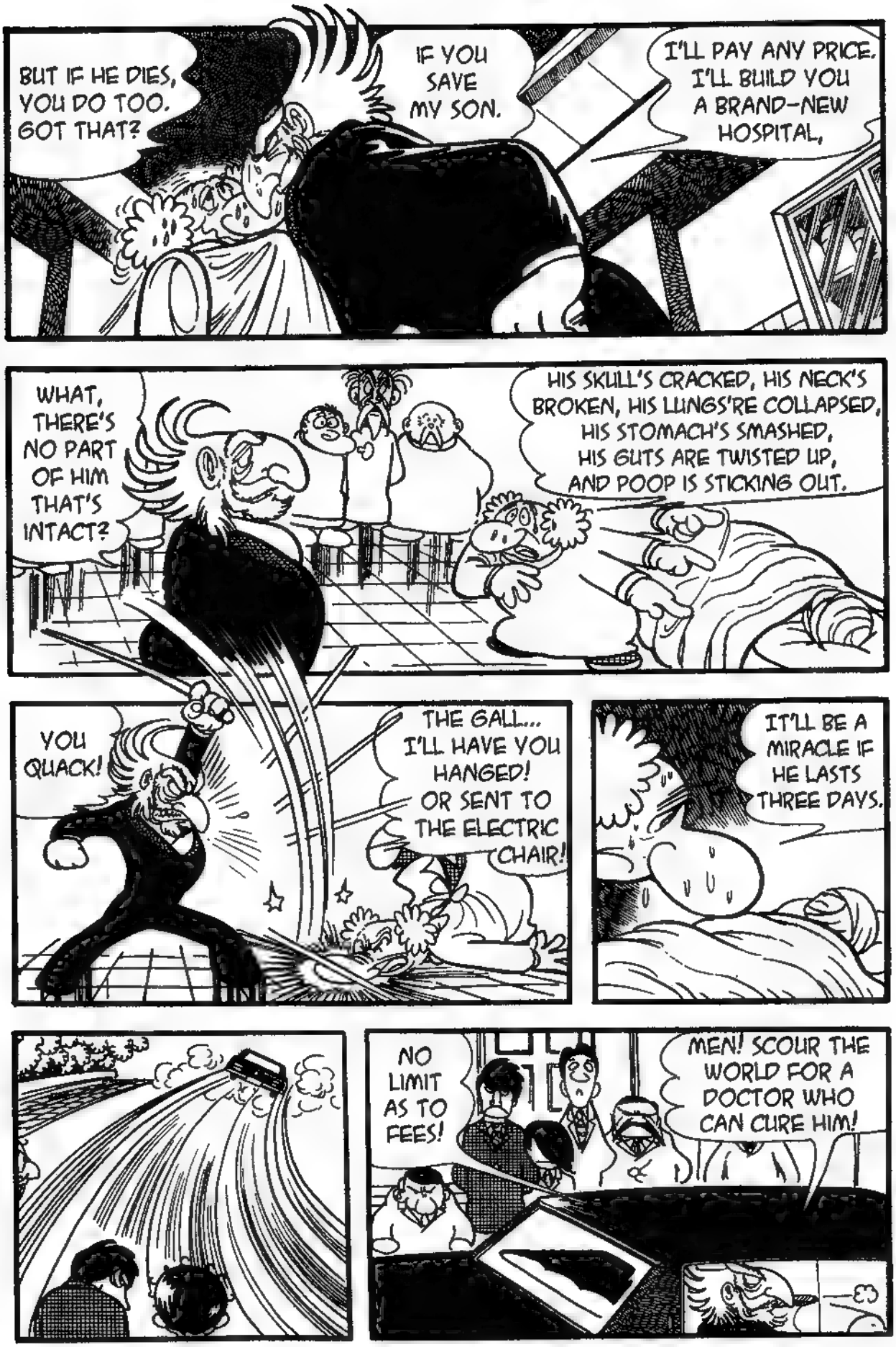
IS THERE A DOCTOR?

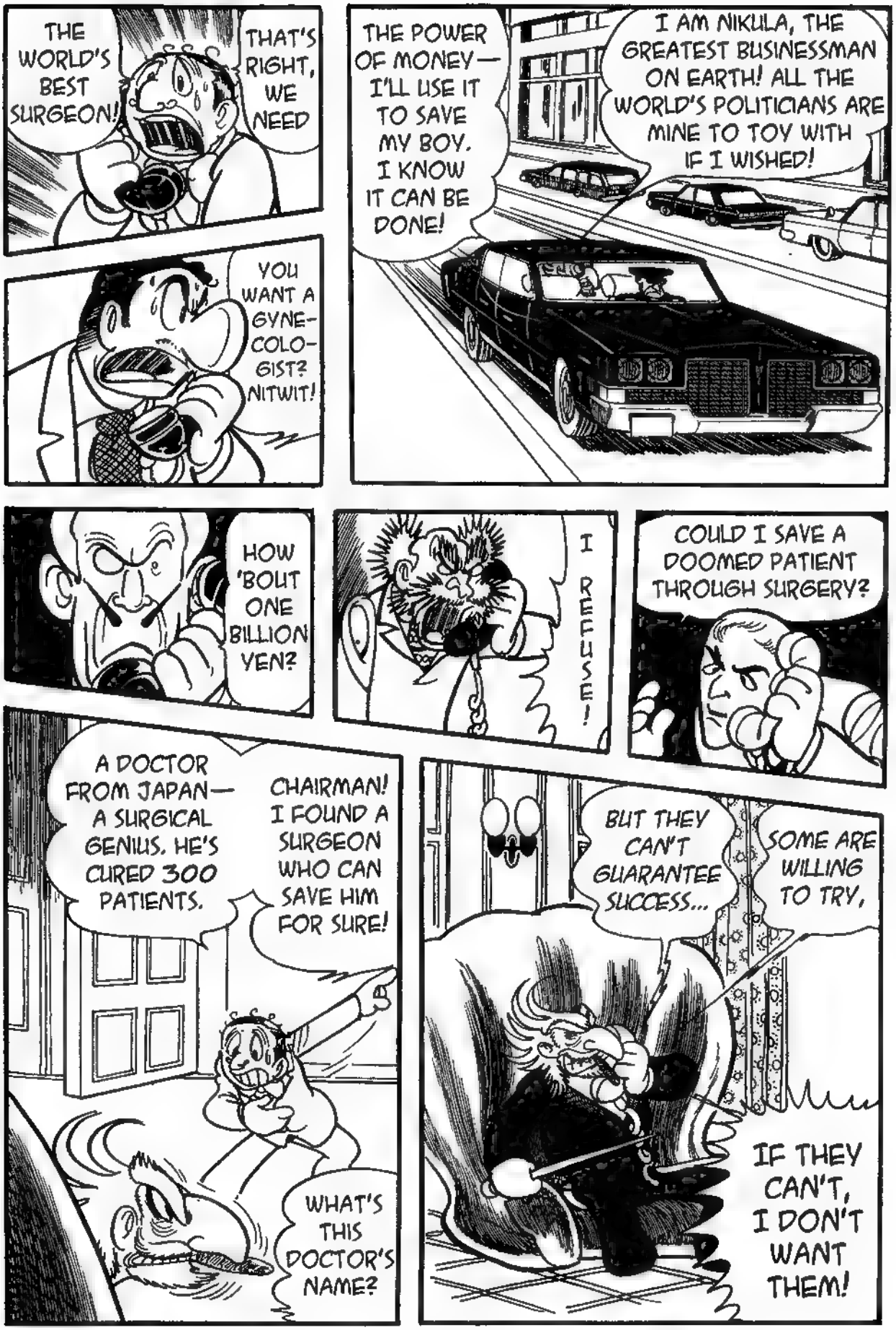

BRMMM
BAM
BLIMP
VROMMM
SKREEE

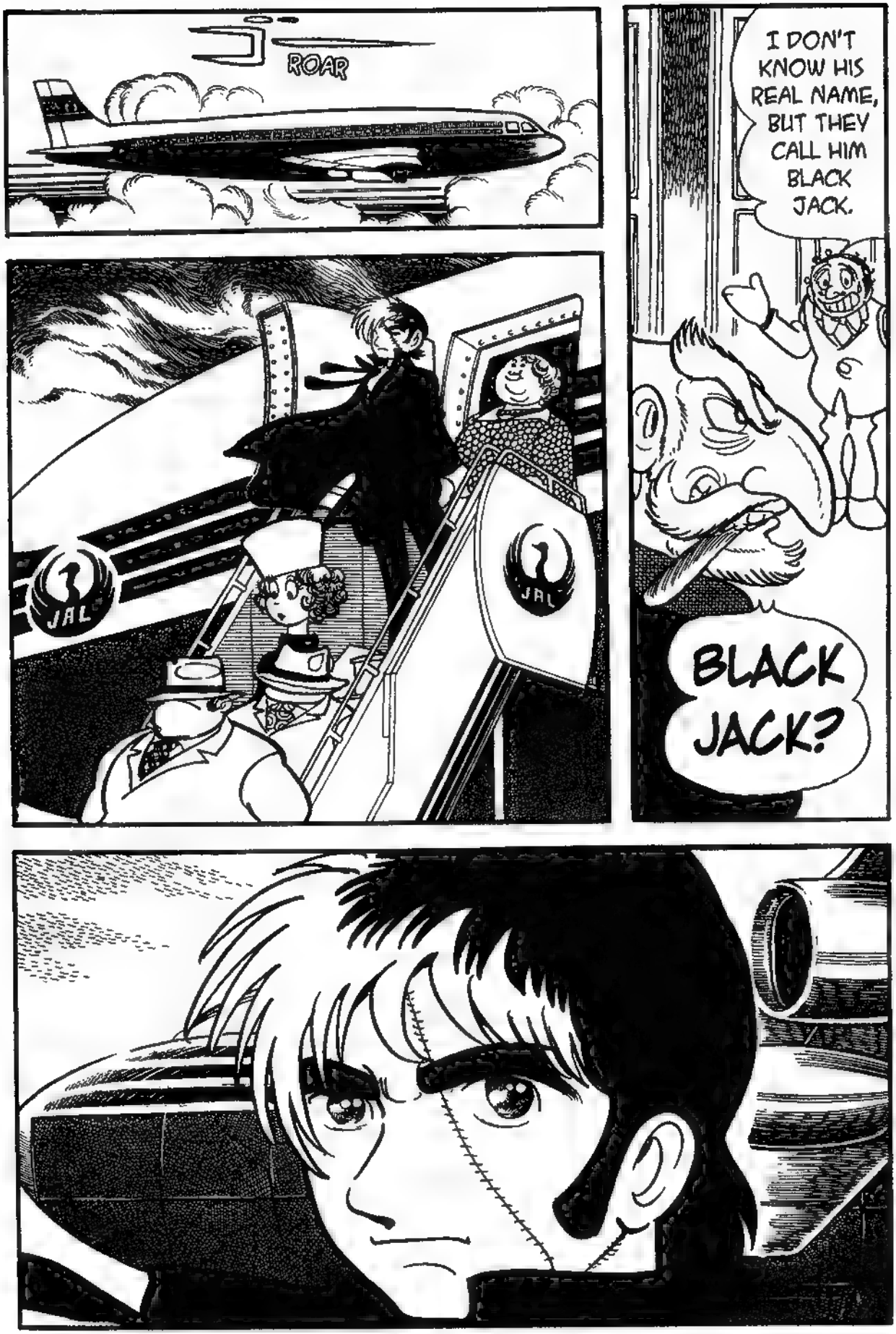
KA-
BAM!!

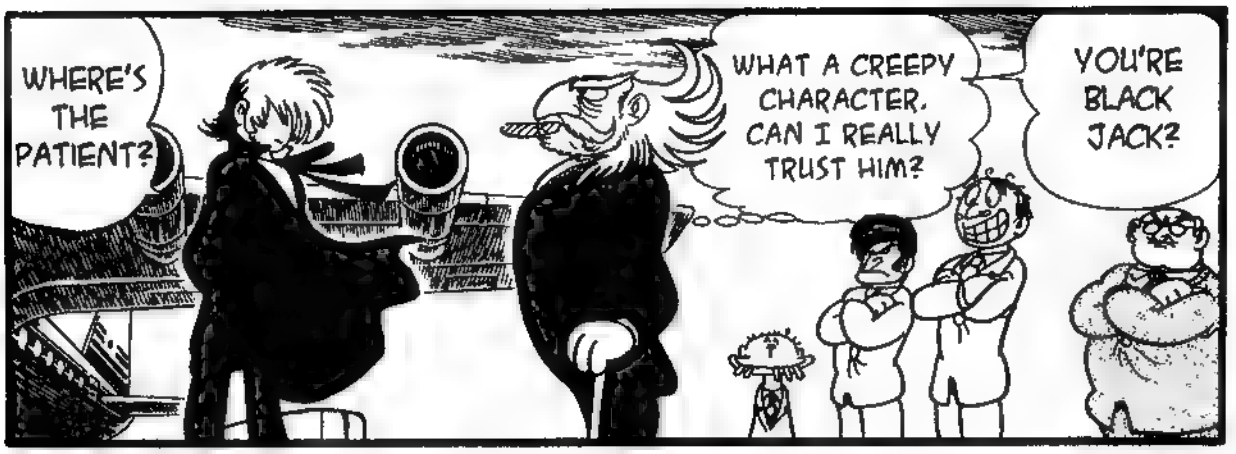
NOTE: THE VAGUELY EUROPEAN-SOUNDING "ACUDO NIKULA" PUNS WITH THE JAPANESE WORDS FOR BRAT ("AKUDO") AND HATEFUL ("NIKURA-SHI" = "MR. NIKULA").


WHUP!
WHERE'S MY BOY?!
GRACIOUS, GRACIOUS! I'M HONORED TO WELCOME YOU TO MY HUMBLE HOSPITAL, MR. NIKULA!
WELL?! CAN YOU SAVE HIM?
ACUDO!!

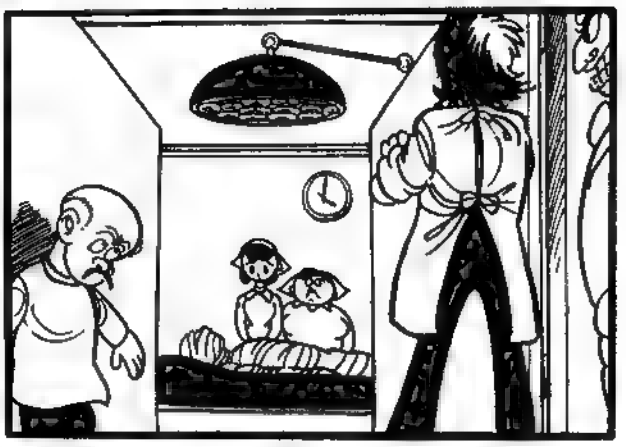

BUT IF HE DIES, YOU DO TOO. GOT THAT?
IF YOU SAVE MY SON.
I'LL PAY ANY PRICE. I'LL BUILD YOU A BRAND-NEW HOSPITAL,
WHAT, THERE'S NO PART OF HIM THAT'S INTACT?
HIS SKULL'S CRACKED, HIS NECK'S BROKEN, HIS LUNGS'RE COLLAPSED, HIS STOMACH'S SMASHED, HIS GUTS ARE TWISTED UP, AND POOP IS STICKING OUT.
YOU QUACK!
THE GALL... I'LL HAVE YOU HANGED! OR SENT TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF HE LASTS THREE DAYS.
NO LIMIT AS TO FEES!
MEN! SCOUR THE WORLD FOR A DOCTOR WHO CAN CURE HIM!


THE WORLD'S BEST SURGEON!
THAT'S RIGHT, WE NEED
YOU WANT A GYNE-COLO-GIST? NITWIT!
THE POWER OF MONEY— I'LL USE IT TO SAVE MY BOY. I KNOW IT CAN BE DONE!
I AM NIKULA, THE GREATEST BUSINESSMAN ON EARTH! ALL THE WORLD'S POLITICIANS ARE MINE TO TOY WITH IF I WISHED!
HOW 'BOUT ONE BILLION YEN?
I REFUSE!
COULD I SAVE A DOOMED PATIENT THROUGH SURGERY?
A DOCTOR FROM JAPAN— A SURGICAL GENIUS. HE'S CURED 300 PATIENTS.
CHAIRMAN! I FOUND A SURGEON WHO CAN SAVE HIM FOR SURE!
WHAT'S THIS DOCTOR'S NAME?
BUT THEY CAN'T GUARANTEE SUCCESS...
SOME ARE WILLING TO TRY,
IF THEY CAN'T, I DON'T WANT THEM!


ROAR
JAL
JAL
I DON'T KNOW HIS REAL NAME, BUT THEY CALL HIM BLACK JACK.
BLACK JACK?

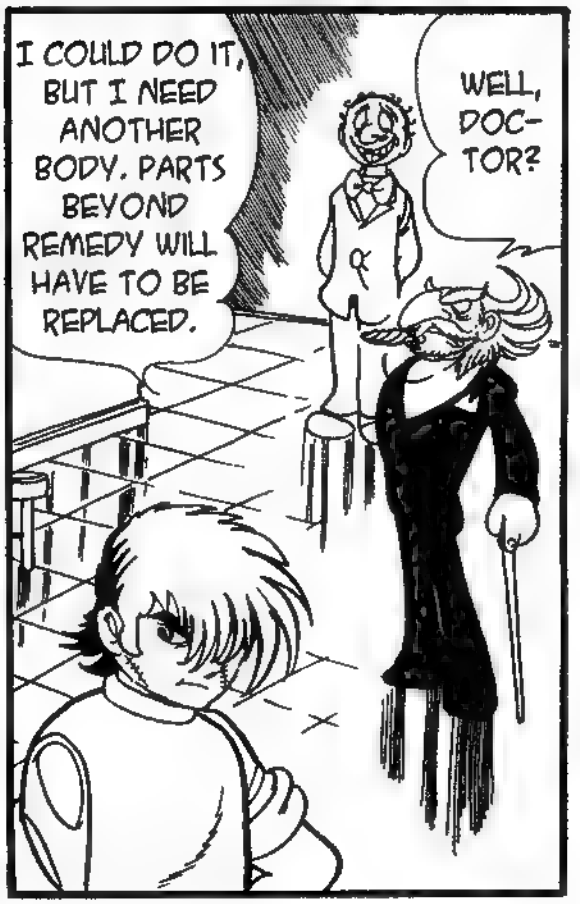

WHERE'S THE PATIENT?
WHAT A CREEPY CHARACTER. CAN I REALLY TRUST HIM?
YOU'RE BLACK JACK?

HMM ...



YOU MEAN ...?

TO SAVE THIS PATIENT, ANOTHER HUMAN HAS TO SACRIFICE HIS BODY!


I COULD DO IT, BUT I NEED ANOTHER BODY. PARTS BEYOND REMEDY WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED.
WELL, DOC-TOR?

Tailor Davy
STATE POLICE
SKREE
WELCOME ...?
Tailor Davy
Tailor Davy
YOU WERE AT THE SCENE OF MR. NIKULA'S SON'S AUTO ACCIDENT, WEREN'T YOU?
BLOW
YES, THAT'S ME.
CHEW
CHEW
YOU'RE DAVY, THE TAILOR?
YOU OBSTRUCTED THE VEHICLE AND CAUSED THE ACCIDENT!
THAT CRASH WAS YOUR FAULT!

THE CAR SPED BY AND CRASHED ALL ON ITS OWN!
RIDICULOUS... I WAS THERE AND SAW IT, THAT'S ALL!
BLOW
WHAT ?!
HE'S A REGULAR HOODLUM. EVERYONE WAS JUST TOO SCARED TO SAY SO!
WHY, NOBODY LIKES ACUDO!
DON'T THINK WE DON'T KNOW THAT YOU HATED MR. NIKULA'S SON.
SPIT
ARE YOU SURE ?
SHUDDAP!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER!
SUE US IF YOU DARE!
COME
UH!
ガチャッ!
KCHINK!
BUT I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG!

THEY'LL HAVE TO PROVE ME INNOCENT. I'LL BE BACK SOON.
MAMA, DON'T WORRY.
DAVY...
ATE POLICE
OHH... HE'S SUCH A KIND BOY... WHAT... WHAT IS GOING ON...
DAVY!
WE ARRESTED THE TAILOR AS YOU REQUESTED.
ANYWAY, KILL HIM BY LEGAL MEANS...
GET THE TRIAL GOING. BUY OFF THE JUDGE AND WITNESSES. HEAR ME?
HAVE HIM CONVICTED BY THE END OF THE DAY.

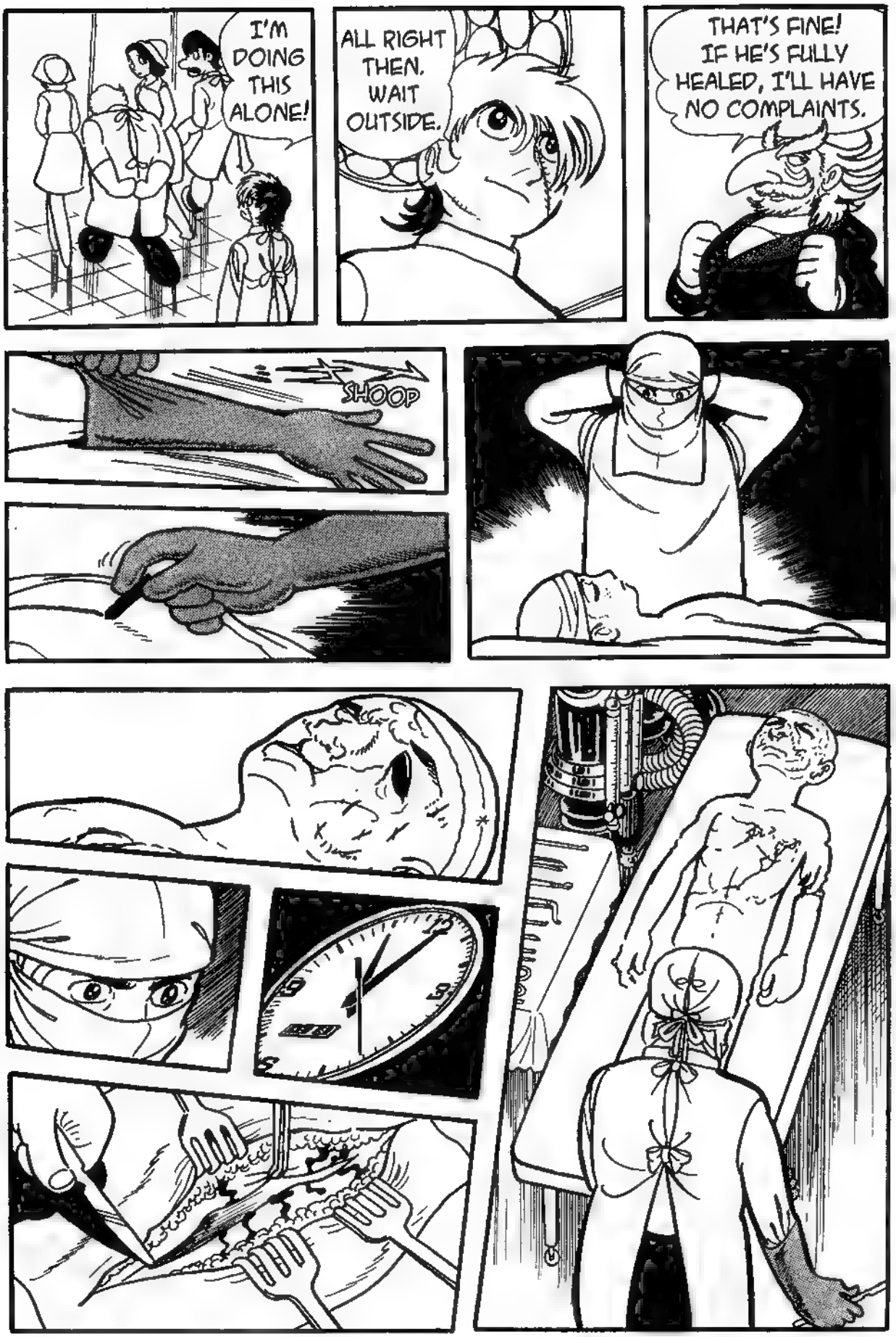
JUST NOW, A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE HAS TAKEN THE STAND.
HE'D NEVER DO SUCH A TERRIBLE THING.
DAVY IS A GOOD SON AND A PROPER BOY.
YES, SIR.
SHUT THAT WITNESS UP.
AND IT'S TRUE THAT ACUDO, WHO GOT INTO THE ACCIDENT, WAS A THUG.
I'M WELL AWARE THAT MY SON WAS A TROUBLE-MAKER.

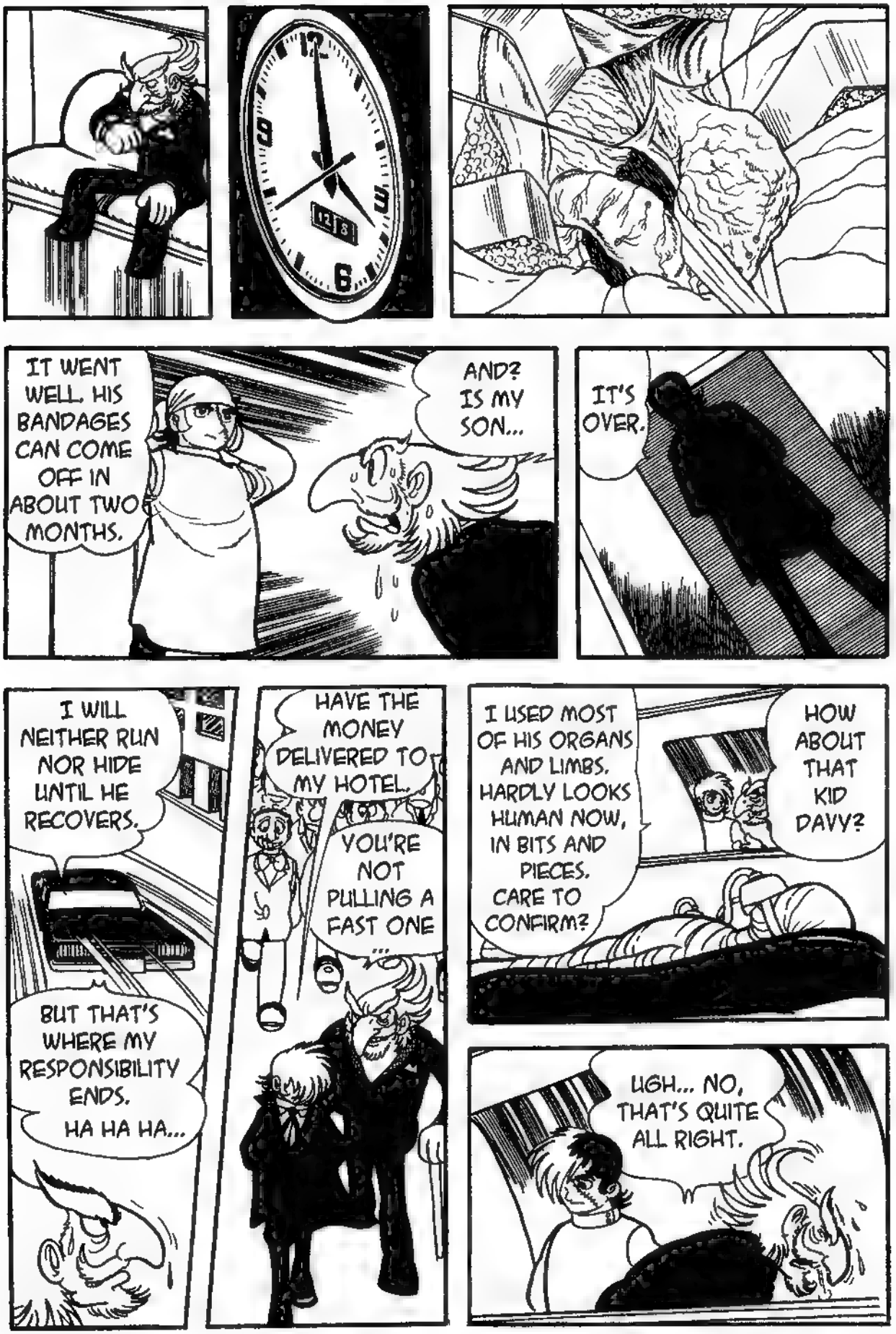
THAT KID DAVY— COULD YOU USE HIS BODY FOR MY SON'S OPERATION?
I COULD...
HE'S MY ONLY SON. I JUST WANT TO SAVE MY SON.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!
A GOOD BOY IS SACRIFICED FOR A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON... SUCH THINGS HAPPEN, TOO. HA! THE WORLD DOESN'T EXIST SOLELY FOR THE RIGHTEOUS!
DON'T GLARE AT ME.
MR. NIKULA, DO YOU REALLY WANT THAT BOY SACRIFICED? FOR YOUR OWN GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON?

DR. BLACK JACK, YOU MAY BE THE BEST SURGEON IN THE WORLD...
MONEY AND POWER! YES, POWER!
HA HA HA... I HAD YOU THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.
YOU'RE FORCED TO LURK IN THE SHADOWS, NO?
BUT YOU PRACTICE WITHOUT A LICENSE.
THAT... THAT'S ...
THE COURT FINDS DAVY GUILTY AND SENTENCES HIM TO DEATH!
MA MA !!
DAVY...
WHAT?

DOCTOR, PLEASE PREPARE TO OPERATE.
SO... THE TRIAL IS OVER.
LORD... HAVE MERCY UPON HIM.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT. OH, MAMA, MAMA! I WON'T JUST ROLL OVER AND DIE! I'LL BE BACK, I PROMISE!
DO AS YOU LIKE!!
DAVY, YOU WILL DIE, BUT A PORTION OF YOUR BODY WILL BE PROVIDED TO MR. NIKULA'S SON.

PRICK
GIVE ME YOUR ARM.
YOU SERVE SATAN!
HAVE YOU SAID YOUR PRAYERS?
DISINFECT HIM.
MAMA...
ONE THING, MR. NIKULA. I'LL SAVE HIM, BUT I WON'T BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS.
FINALLY, ACUDO, YOUR OPERATION— YOU'LL BE SAVED!


I'M DOING THIS ALONE!
ALL RIGHT THEN. WAIT OUTSIDE.
THAT'S FINE! IF HE'S FULLY HEALED, I'LL HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.
SHOOP


IT WENT WELL. HIS BANDAGES CAN COME OFF IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.
AND? IS MY SON...
IT'S OVER.
I WILL NEITHER RUN NOR HIDE UNTIL HE RECOVERS.
BUT THAT'S WHERE MY RESPONSIBILITY ENDS. HA HA HA...
HAVE THE MONEY DELIVERED TO MY HOTEL.
YOU'RE NOT PULLING A FAST ONE ...
I USED MOST OF HIS ORGANS AND LIMBS. HARDLY LOOKS HUMAN NOW, IN BITS AND PIECES. CARE TO CONFIRM?
HOW ABOUT THAT KID DAVY?
UGH... NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

TWO MONTHS LATER...
I'M REMOVING THE LAST BANDAGE.
ACUDO!
CAN YOU TELL WHO I AM, ACUDO?
YEP
SO LONG.
MY WORK HERE IS DONE.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK, YOU REALLY ARE A MASTER SURGEON!
SHOULD BE ALL HEALED.

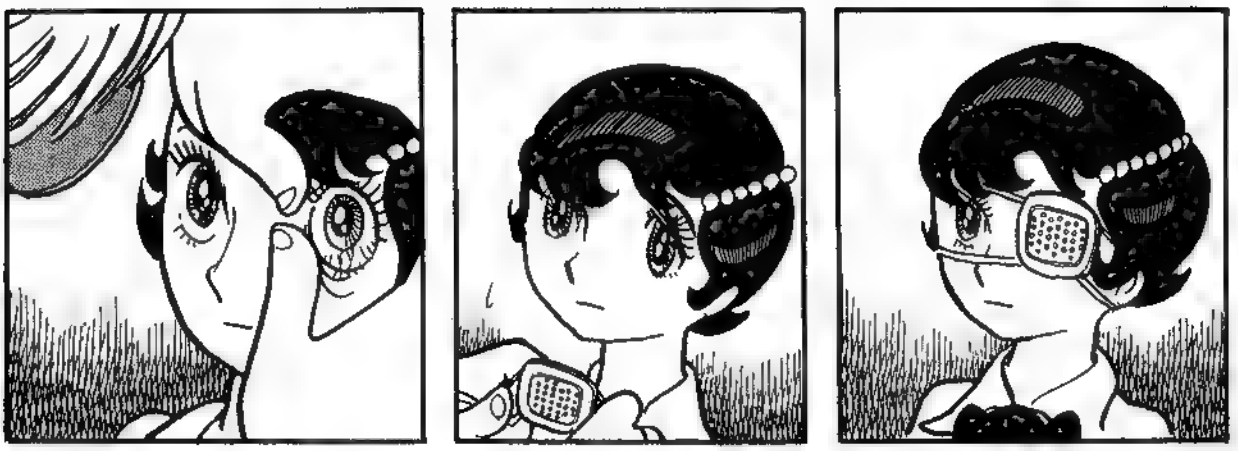
TAKE YOUR TIME, REST UP NOW.
CONGRATULATIONS, SON. AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T TAKE ON.
HE SNUCK OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND IS... MISSING.
GONE? HOW?
CHAIRMAN! THE YOUNG MASTER IS GONE!!
THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING! AS SOON AS HE GOT BETTER!
FIND HIM RIGHT AWAY! TELL THE POLICE IT'S THEIR RESPONSI-BILITY!

Tailor Davy
MISTER NIKULA'S DARLING BOY...
IT'S ME, DAVY! I'M BACK, MAMA!
MAMA, IT'S ME.
Y... YOU'RE...
BUT THAT WASN'T SO, MAMA.
DAVY IS DEAD...
NO. YOU'RE NOT MY DAVY.

SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
I'M SURE MY MAMA WILL SEE.
HERE, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, WATCH THIS.
DAVY'S ...
THAT SCISSOR WORK IS...
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
SNIP
...
MY FACE IS DIFFERENT, BUT I'M STILL YOUR SON. IS THAT ALL RIGHT, MAMA?
D... DAVY...
SAID THERE WAS NO POINT OPERATING ON A ROTTEN BODY AND SOUL.
MAMA, IT WAS ACUDO WHO DIED. DR. BLACK JACK JUST OPERATED ON MY FACE TO MAKE ME LOOK EXACTLY LIKE ACUDO.
LET'S ESCAPE TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY. ACUDO'S DAD IS LOOKING FOR ME.

MAMA... HE MUST BE AN ANGEL.
THE DOCTOR GAVE IT TO ME SO WE CAN ESCAPE.
WHAT'S ALL THAT MONEY?
BLACK JACK. APART FROM BEING JAPANESE, HIS BACK-GROUND IS NOT KNOWN, NOR HIS NAME. BUT HE IS A GENIUS SURGEON, AND SOME CALL HIS SKILLS DIVINE. TODAY, TOO, THE ENIGMATIC DOCTOR IS PERFORMING A MIRACLE WITH HIS SCALPEL SOMEWHERE.

THE FIRST STORM OF SPRING



BUT WITH LEU- COMA IT'S A CINCH.
TRUE, EYE SURGERY ISN'T MY SPECIALTY,

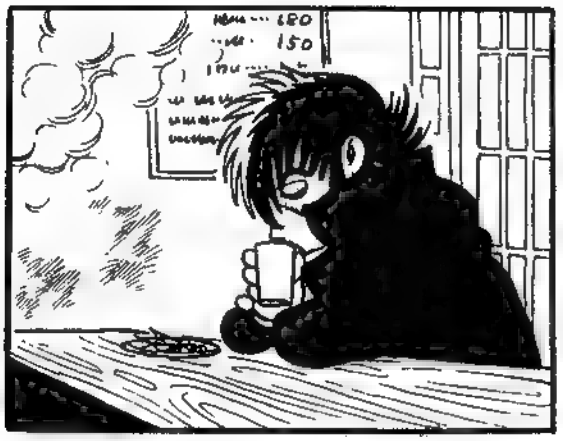
FRANKLY, I BELIEVE IT WENT WELL.

HMPH. YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE EVER TO COOK UP A COMPLAINT OVER AN OPERATION I PERFORMED.
IT'S NOT... COOKED UP!

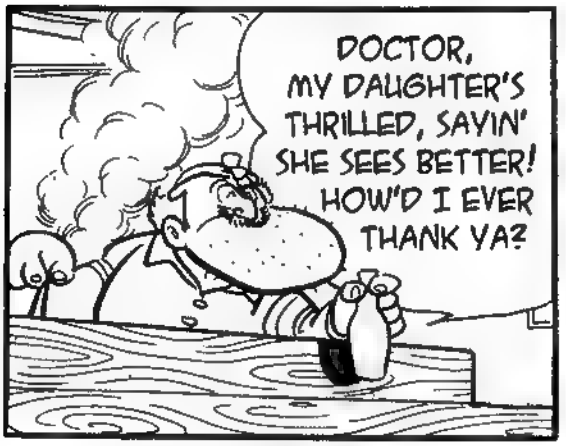
IN THE DARK...
WHEN I SHUT MY EYES ...

WHY WOULD YOU SEE SUCH A THING?
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET.

IT'S A TRICK OF THE IMAGI-NATION.
I SEE A TALL, HANDSOME MAN, STARING LONG AND HARD AT ME!
NO IT ISN'T!!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.
OH! I SEE HIM, NOW! HE'S STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
GIVE MY BEST TO YOUR DAD, WILL YOU?



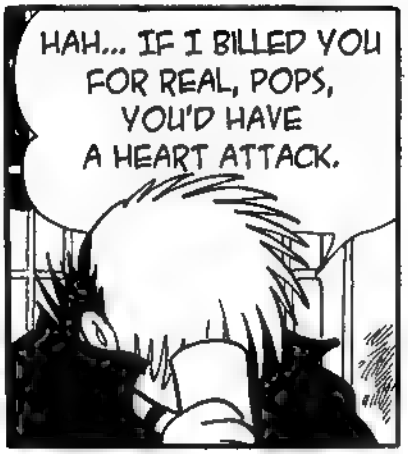
BAR
DANGAI
鬼頭
三木ゐろ

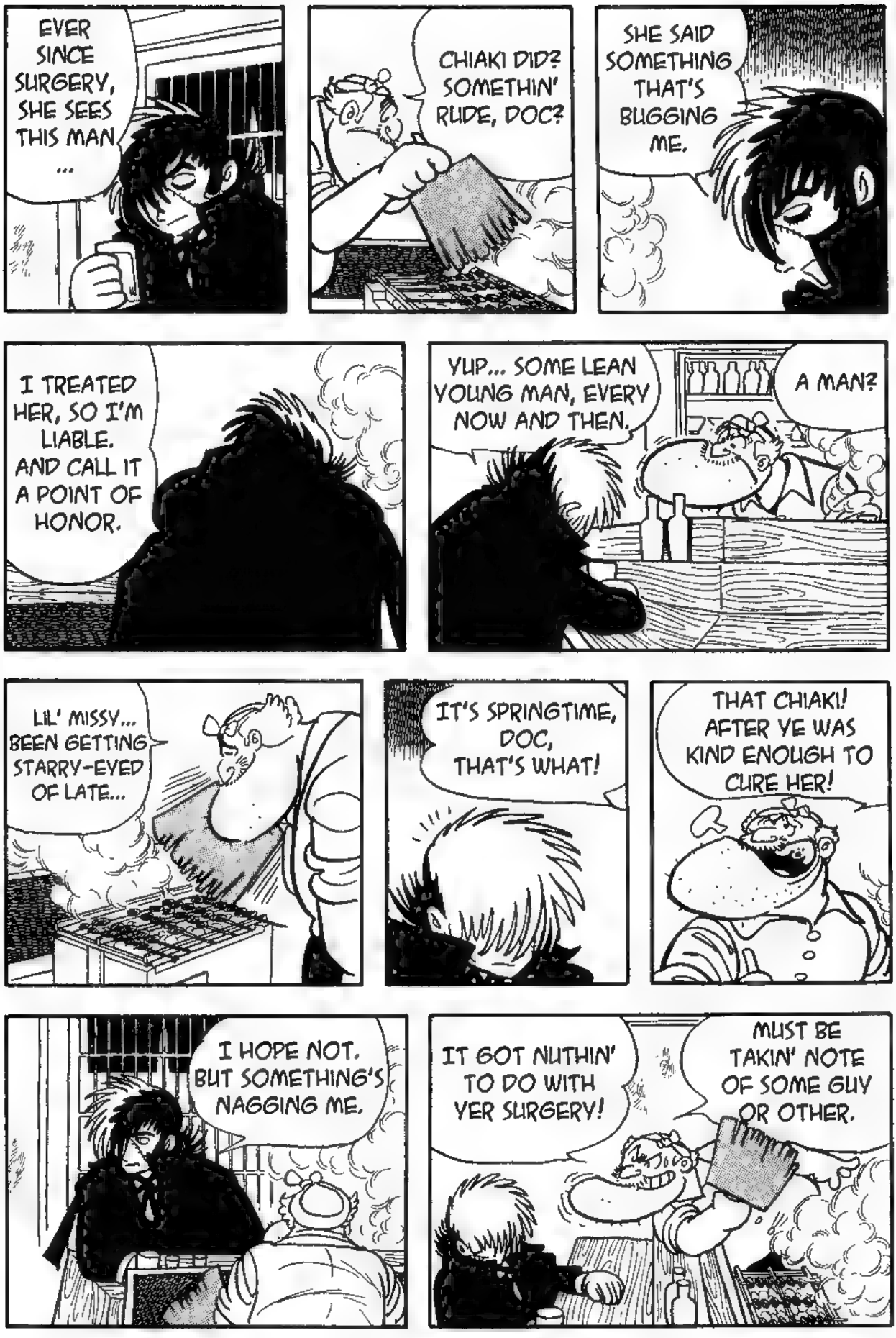

DOCTOR, MY DAUGHTER'S THRILLED, SAYIN' SHE SEES BETTER! HOW'D I EVER THANK YA?

ASKIN' INSTEAD FOR FREE DRINKS FOR A MONTH— GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
AT LEAST WON'CHA LET ME PAY THE TREATMENT FEE PROPER-LIKE?

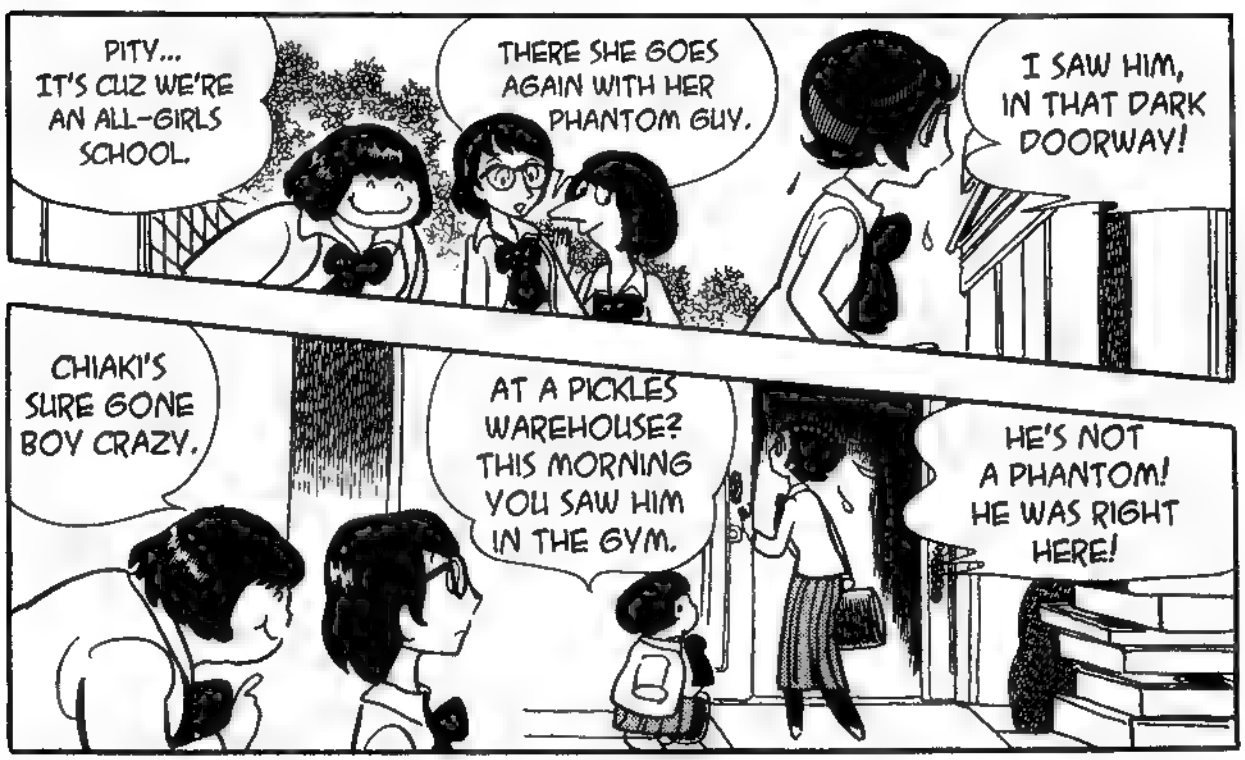
DOC, WHY THE SAD FACE?

SEE HERE, DRINK ALL YE WANT.
UH, DON'T SCARE ME...


HAH... IF I BILLED YOU FOR REAL, POPS, YOU'D HAVE A HEART ATTACK.


EVER SINCE SURGERY, SHE SEES THIS MAN ...
CHIAKI DID? SOMETHIN' RUDE, DOC?
SHE SAID SOMETHING THAT'S BUGGING ME.
I TREATED HER, SO I'M LIABLE. AND CALL IT A POINT OF HONOR.
YUP... SOME LEAN YOUNG MAN, EVERY NOW AND THEN.
A MAN?
LIL' MISSY... BEEN GETTING STARRY-EYED OF LATE...
IT'S SPRINGTIME, DOC, THAT'S WHAT!
THAT CHIAKI! AFTER YE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO CURE HER!
I HOPE NOT. BUT SOMETHING'S NAGGING ME.
IT GOT NUTHIN' TO DO WITH YER SURGERY!
MUST BE TAKIN' NOTE OF SOME GUY OR OTHER.

OH!
?


PITY... IT'S CUZ WE'RE AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL.
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN WITH HER PHANTOM GUY.
I SAW HIM, IN THAT DARK DOORWAY!
CHIAKI'S SURE GONE BOY CRAZY.
AT A PICKLES WAREHOUSE? THIS MORNING YOU SAW HIM IN THE GYM.
HE'S NOT A PHANTOM! HE WAS RIGHT HERE!

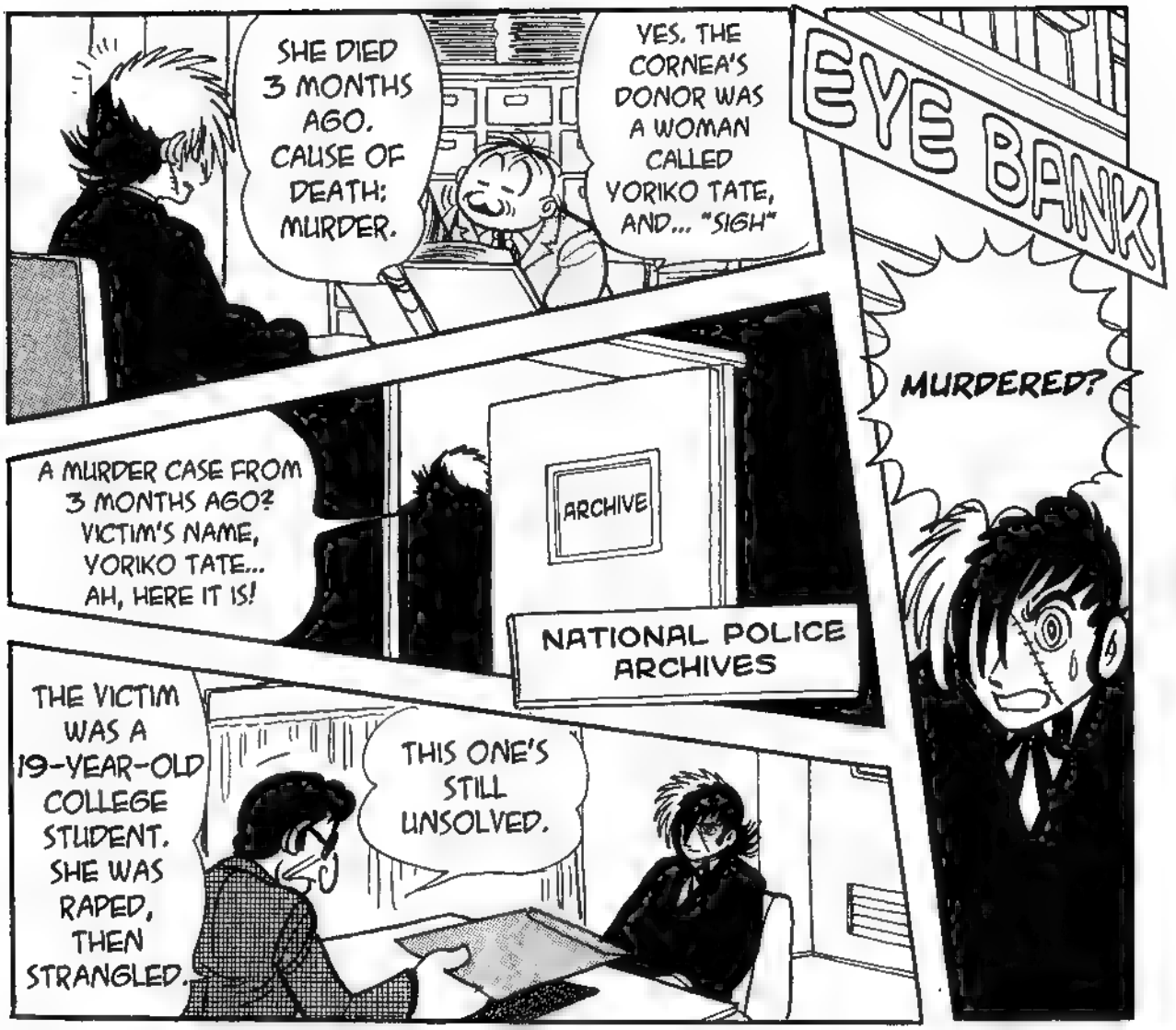
THEY KEEP TEASING ME, BUT I SEE HIM ALL THE TIME.
AGAIN!
DON'T RUN OFF! STAY THERE! I'M COMING.
OOPS... GONE ALREADY ...
IS IT ME, THEN?
BUT WHY WOULD I PICTURE THE EXACT SAME FACE AND CLOTHES EVERY TIME?
OR IS THAT... AM I REALLY LOSING IT?

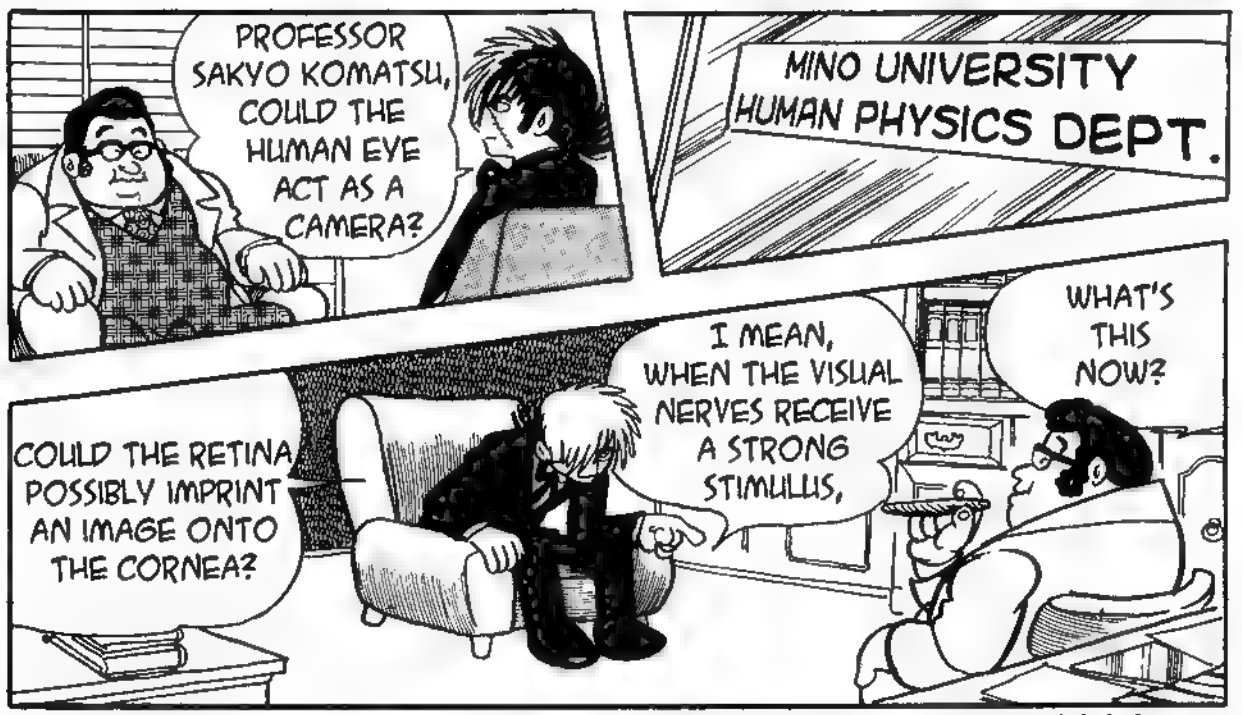
AND YOU STILL SEE HIM?
IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS,
BUT I JUST KEEP ON SEEING HIM ...
IF NOT, SOME FELLOW'S STALKING YOU. ONE OR THE OTHER.
IT'S NOT AN OVERSIGHT ON MY PART!
A MENTAL CAUSE...
NO, DOCTOR. I SWEAR!
EVER HAD A BOYFRIEND?
EVER BEEN IN LOVE?
SOME STUDENT?
OH, MAYBE YOU WILL BE—
BUT NOT ME!
NEVER MIND... I'LL BE FINE...
FOR ME TO BOTCH A MERE CORNEA TRANSPLANT!
WHAT A DIS-GRACE,
FOR ME—

YES—THE CORNEA YOU PROVIDED ME THE OTHER DAY FOR A TRANS-PLANT...
WHAT SORT OF PERSON WAS THE DONOR?
HELLO, IS THIS THE EYE BANK?
CORNEA
A CORNEA TRANS-PLANT!
KCHAK
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER.
ARE YOU SURE?
...
WHAT'S AN "EYE BANK"?
CHIAKI, IF YOU LIKE, I'LL DROP YOU OFF ON MY WAY.
BY MY NAME, I'LL SORT THIS OUT.

SO YOU REPLACE THE CLOUDED CORNEA WITH A NEW ONE.
THAT'S WHAT AN EYE BANK IS FOR.
TURNS A PART OF YOUR EYE CALLED THE CORNEA WHITE AND CLOUDY.
LEUCOMA, THE DISEASE YOU HAD,
vitreous
lens
cornea
retina
ONLY THE PART KNOWN AS THE CORNEA.
BUT THEY DON'T STOCK WHOLE EYEBALLS THERE—
IT'S SIMILAR TO A BLOOD BANK.
THE DONOR OF THAT ODD CORNEA.
I NEED TO ASK THEM ABOUT...
WHAT?!
IT SEEMS THIS PHANTOM OF YOURS IS CAUSED BY THE REPLACEMENT CORNEA.

USUALLY THEY'RE DEAD.
WHEN A DONOR GIVES IT, HOW DOES—
WHERE ARE YOU FROM? DO YOU EXIST?
OR... ARE YOU...
WHOEVER YOU ARE... WHY DO YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND? WHY DO YOU STARE AT ME SO?
AGAIN!
GASP
TELL ME ...
A DREAM MADE UP BY MY MIND?

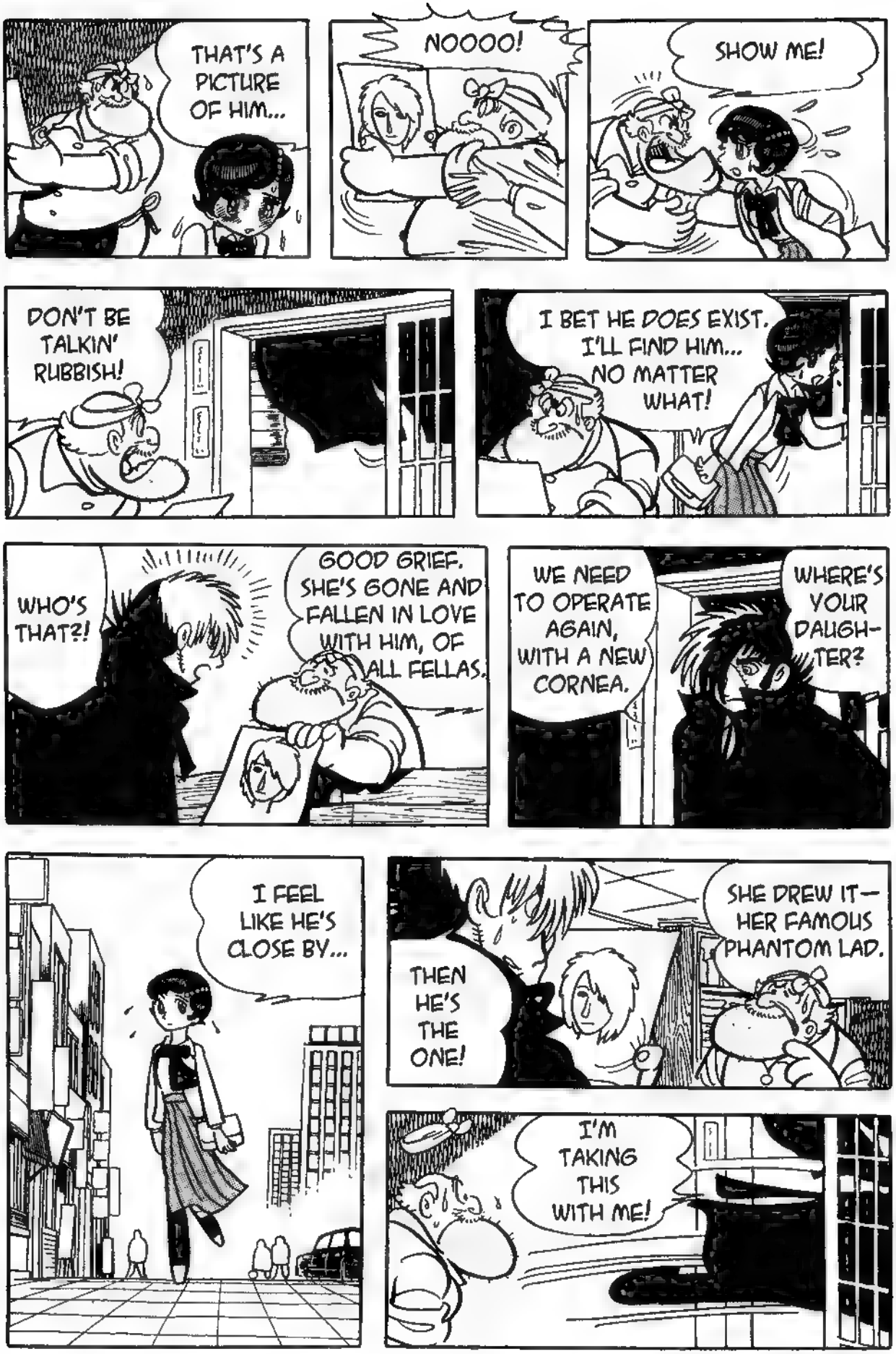

SHE DIED 3 MONTHS AGO. CAUSE OF DEATH: MURDER.
YES. THE CORNEA'S DONOR WAS A WOMAN CALLED YORIKO TATE, AND... "SIGH"
EYE BANK
MURDERED?
A MURDER CASE FROM 3 MONTHS AGO? VICTIM'S NAME, YORIKO TATE... AH, HERE IT IS!
ARCHIVE
NATIONAL POLICE ARCHIVES
THE VICTIM WAS A 19-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE STUDENT. SHE WAS RAPED, THEN STRANGLED.
THIS ONE'S STILL UNSOLVED.


PROFESSOR SAKYO KOMATSU, COULD THE HUMAN EYE ACT AS A CAMERA?
MINO UNIVERSITY HUMAN PHYSICS DEPT.
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
I MEAN, WHEN THE VISUAL NERVES RECEIVE A STRONG STIMULUS,
COULD THE RETINA POSSIBLY IMPRINT AN IMAGE ONTO THE CORNEA?

NOTE: "SAKYO KOMATSU" = ESTEEMED SCI-FI NOVELIST BEST KNOWN FOR *JAPAN SINKS*.

HA HA HA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR INTERESTS RAN THAT WAY.
FOR INSTANCE, THE LAST THING A PERSON SAW BEFORE DYING?
HMM ...
SCIENCE IS FULL OF UNKNOWNS, SO I DON'T RULE IT OUT.
WELL, SPIRITS AND THE OCCULT ARE ALL THE RAGE.
I'M DEAD SERIOUS.
MAYBE IN SCI-FI, BUT IN REAL LIFE I'M NOT SO SURE.
MAYBE YOU'LL SEE THE KILLER!
LOOK INTO THAT COR-NEA...
WHO GOT KILLED, BY THE WAY?
NO! THAT'S WHOSE FACE...!

DAD... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE ...
CAN'T TAKE WHAT?
CHIAKI? WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T BE FUNNY! GETTIN' A CRUSH ON SOME FELLA THAT DON'T EXIST!
THE PHANTOM I KEEP SEEING.
WHO'S "HIM"?
I THINK I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM.
DAD'LL FIND YE A PROPER FELLA— NOT SOME PHANTOM, HEAR?
CHIAKI, YER ALMOST A LADY NOW.
I'VE BEEN SEEING HIM DAY AND NIGHT, AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM.
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!
WHATCHA DRAWING, MISSY?
...
PERFECT FOR MY DAUGHTER IF YE ASK ME.
THAT DOC WHO FIXED YER EYES, HE'S YOUNG BUT DECENT.


THAT'S A PICTURE OF HIM...
NOOOO!
SHOW ME!
DON'T BE TALKIN' RUBBISH!
I BET HE DOES EXIST. I'LL FIND HIM... NO MATTER WHAT!
WHO'S THAT?!
GOOD GRIEF. SHE'S GONE AND FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM, OF ALL FELLAS.
WE NEED TO OPERATE AGAIN, WITH A NEW CORNEA.
WHERE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?
I FEEL LIKE HE'S CLOSE BY...
THEN HE'S THE ONE!
SHE DREW IT— HER FAMOUS PHANTOM LAD.
I'M TAKING THIS WITH ME!

HE WAS REAL!
AH... I KNEW IT...
BUT IF HE'S MARRIED...
MAYBE I'LL SAY HI?
IF I DON'T, I MIGHT NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, YES?
CAN I HELP YOU?
IT'S HIM!!
THAT FACE!

AN IMAGE OF ME, A TOTAL STRANGER, IMPRINTED IN YOUR EYE.
THAT'S BIZARRE, WOW...
THIS JOY... IS THIS "FIRST LOVE" ?
HMM. LIFE SURE IS FULL OF MYSTERIES.
SQUEEZE
"I"
THUMP
I-I-I... UHM...
THERE'S A BENCH. GO AHEAD AND TELL ME YOUR STORY.

CAN'T LET YOU LIVE EITHER, THEN.
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING— ABOUT HOW I ENDED UP KILLING HER!
TO THINK THAT YOU CAME RIGHT TO ME— NOW, WASN'T THAT LUCKY.
KNOW, DON'T YOU?
YOU...
UH... UGH...
I KILLED A WOMAN I KNEW, 3 MONTHS AGO! LIKE THIS.
WHOM DID YOU KILL?
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT'S HIM!
SCREECH
SHWK
YARG!

HRGG!
POW
ULP
WOEEE
WOEEE
COME WITH US!
JOHN DOE
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS?
WAAAHHH!

AND TOLD YOU WHO KILLED HER. FUNNY THINGS HAPPEN ...
THE DEAD WOMAN'S EYE LIVED ON IN YOU,
YESSIR.
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE, POPS.
SO YOU FELL IN LOVE NOT KNOWING WHO HE WAS.
FIRST LOVE ENDS IN HEART-BREAK...
COME NOW, LET'S GO.
DON'T FEEL DOWN. THAT WAS A HARBINGER.
YOUR TRUE SPRING'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.

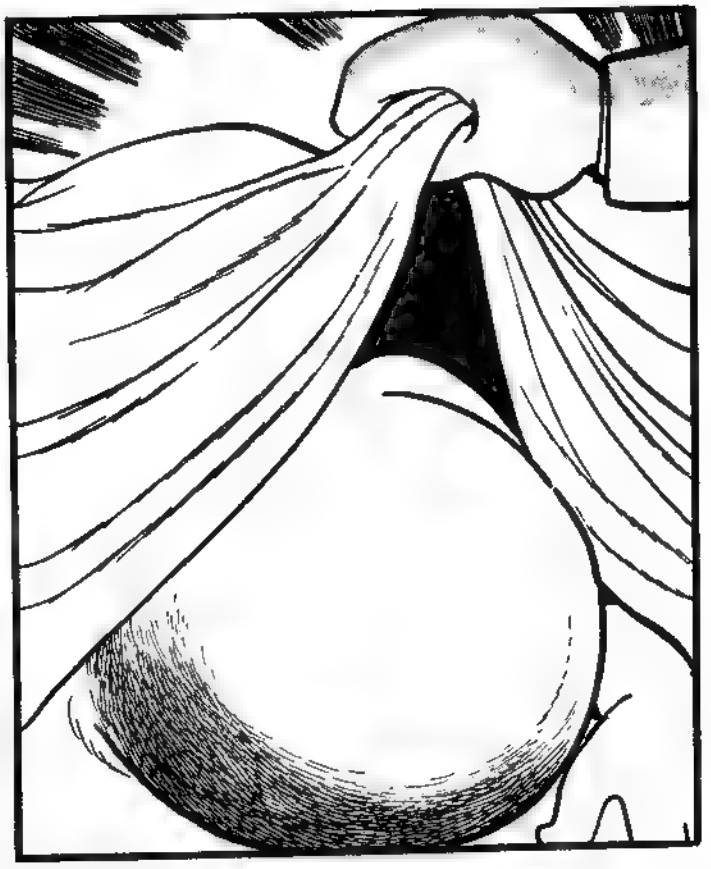
TERATOID CYSTOMA

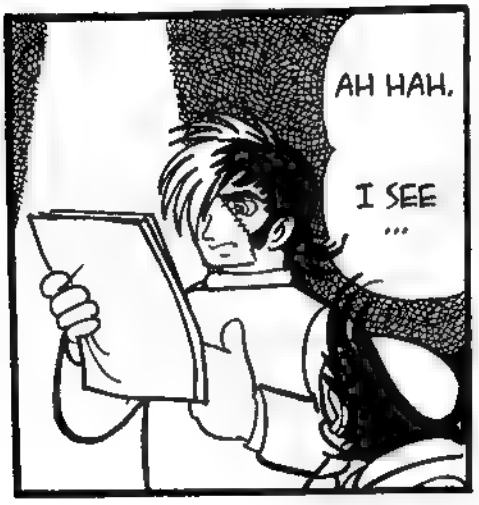
RRRING
RRRING
DOCTOR, I'M THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OF A CERTAIN HIGH-PROFILE PERSONAGE. I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU AND REQUEST THAT YOU OPERATE ON HER. IMMEDIATELY.
SKREEE
BRRmmm
TONIGHT, OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE. SHE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL MORNING?
AND AS A DOCTOR, YOU LET IT COME TO THAT? WHO'S THE PATIENT?
CLICK

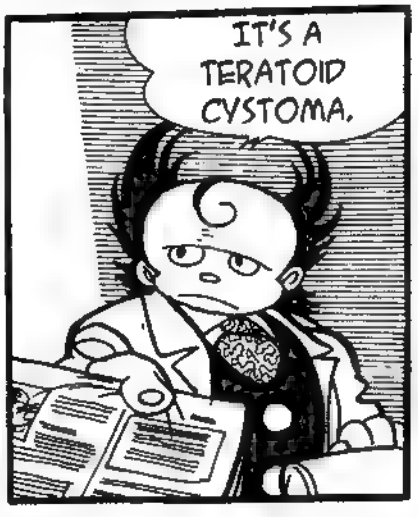
BAM
NO DOUBT YOU BROUGHT HER HERE...
YOU WANT TO CONCEAL HER IDENTITY SO BADLY? FINE, I WON'T ASK.
TO AVOID STARTING RUMORS AT A PROPER HOSPITAL.
W-WELL...
QUIET... UNLOAD HER, GENTLY NOW!
PARDON US...
THE SUDDEN VISIT.
FWAP

AH, SUCH TRUST...
NO HOSPITAL CAN HANDLE THIS OPERATION.
I BELIEVE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN.
I'M DR. CRAB. I WORK AT SIDE SCUTTLE HOSPITAL.

A TUMOR ?
PHEW, IT'S HUGE.
IT'S A CYSTOMA.

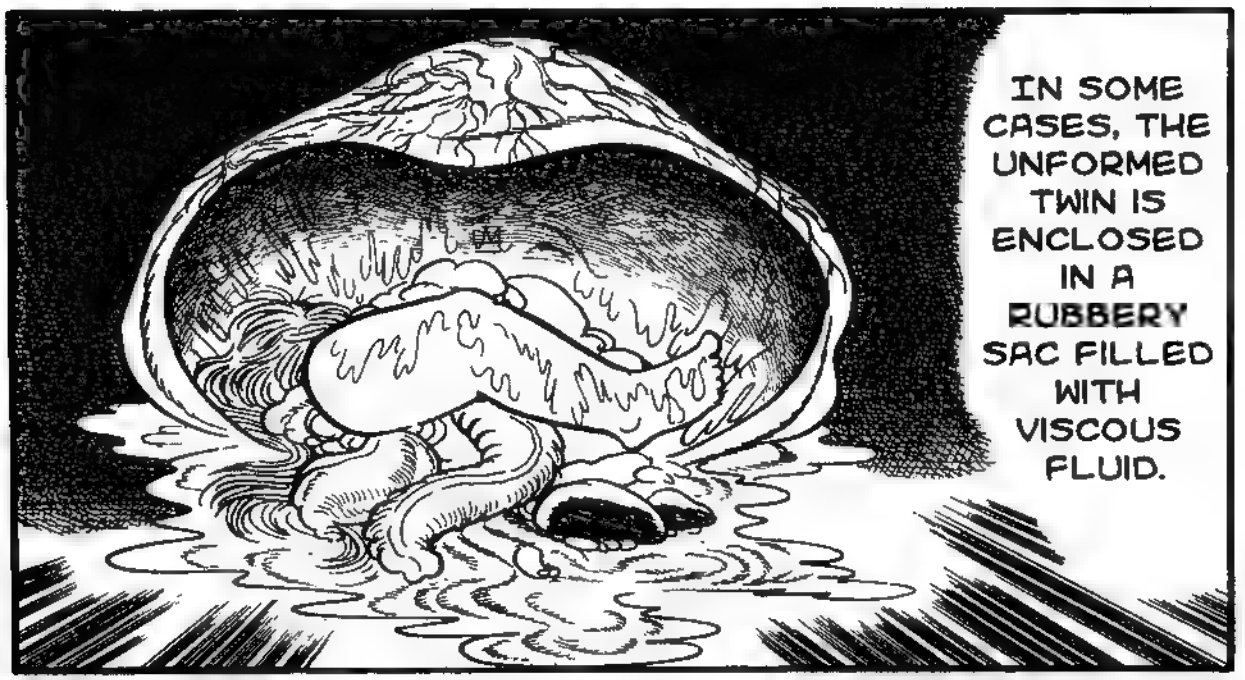



AH HAH.
I SEE ...


IT'S A TERATOID CYSTOMA.

AND YOU WANT ME TO REMOVE IT.

AS THE BABY GROWS, THE UNFORMED TWIN DEVELOPS TOGETHER. IT MIGHT BE AN EYEBALL, HAIR, AN ARM AND A LEG.
SOMETIMES WHEN TWINS ARE CONCEIVED, ONE EMBRYO FAILS TO COHERE AND JUST A PART OF IT IS BORN IMPLANTED IN ITS SIBLING.


IN SOME CASES, THE UNFORMED TWIN IS ENCLOSED IN A RUBBERY SAC FILLED WITH VISCOUS FLUID.

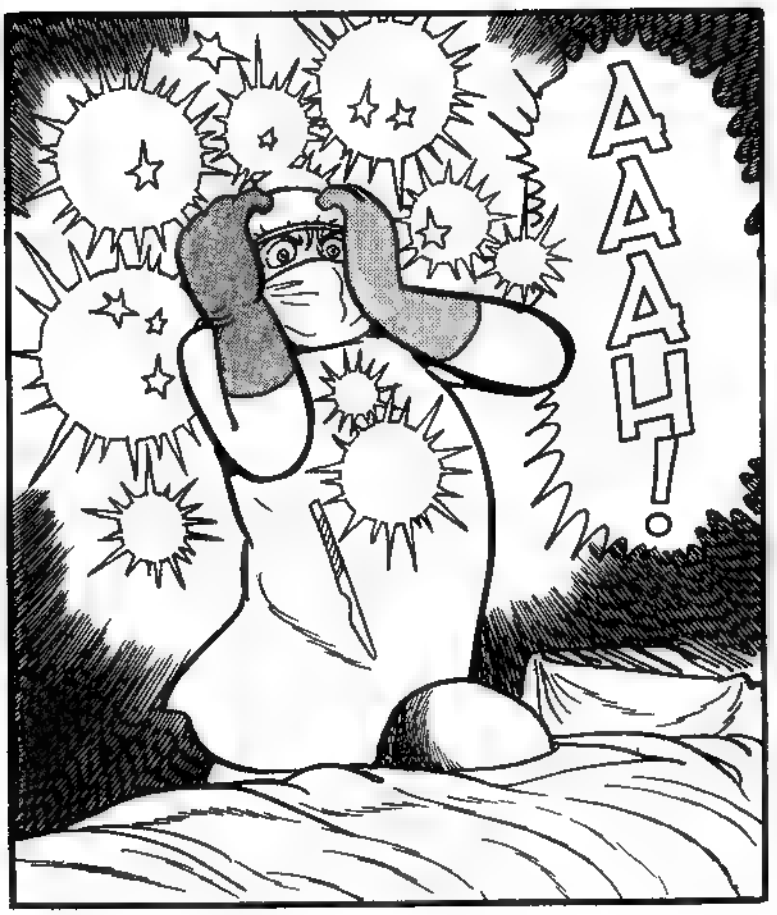
HERE'S THE X-RAY.
AS THE SAC ENLARGES, IT STARTS TO LOOK LIKE A GROWTH. IT'S CALLED A TERATOID CYSTOMA.
LIVER
ARM
LARGE INTESTINE
LEG
STOMACH
LUNG
ARM
BRAIN
LARGE INTESTINE
NEARLY A FULL SET OF HUMAN ORGANS.
HAH, THIS IS AMAZING.
EVEN A BRAIN!
THAT'S THE THING ...
WHY WASN'T IT REMOVED BEFORE IT GOT SO LARGE?
EVERY TIME IT IS ATTEMPT-ED...

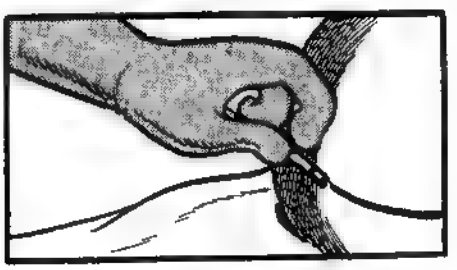
EVERYONE PRESENT ...
STARTS TO ACT FUNNY.
"FUNNY" ?
YAAAAA!
EACH TIME, THEY HAD TO STOP.
POPPY-COCK!
IT MUST BE THE CURSE OF THE CYSTOMA.

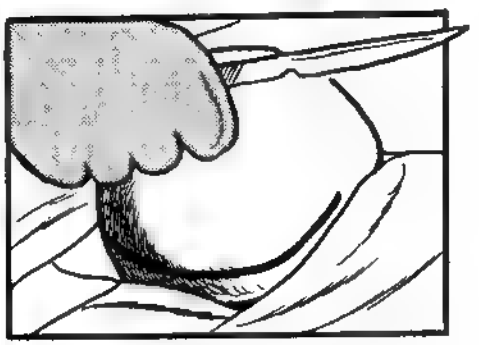
I'VE HEARD OF A MUMMY'S CURSE...
BUT A GROWTH THAT CURSES HUMANS? HA HA!
IT IS SO.

AN ACCURSED OPERATION, THEN.
TIME TO GET STARTED.

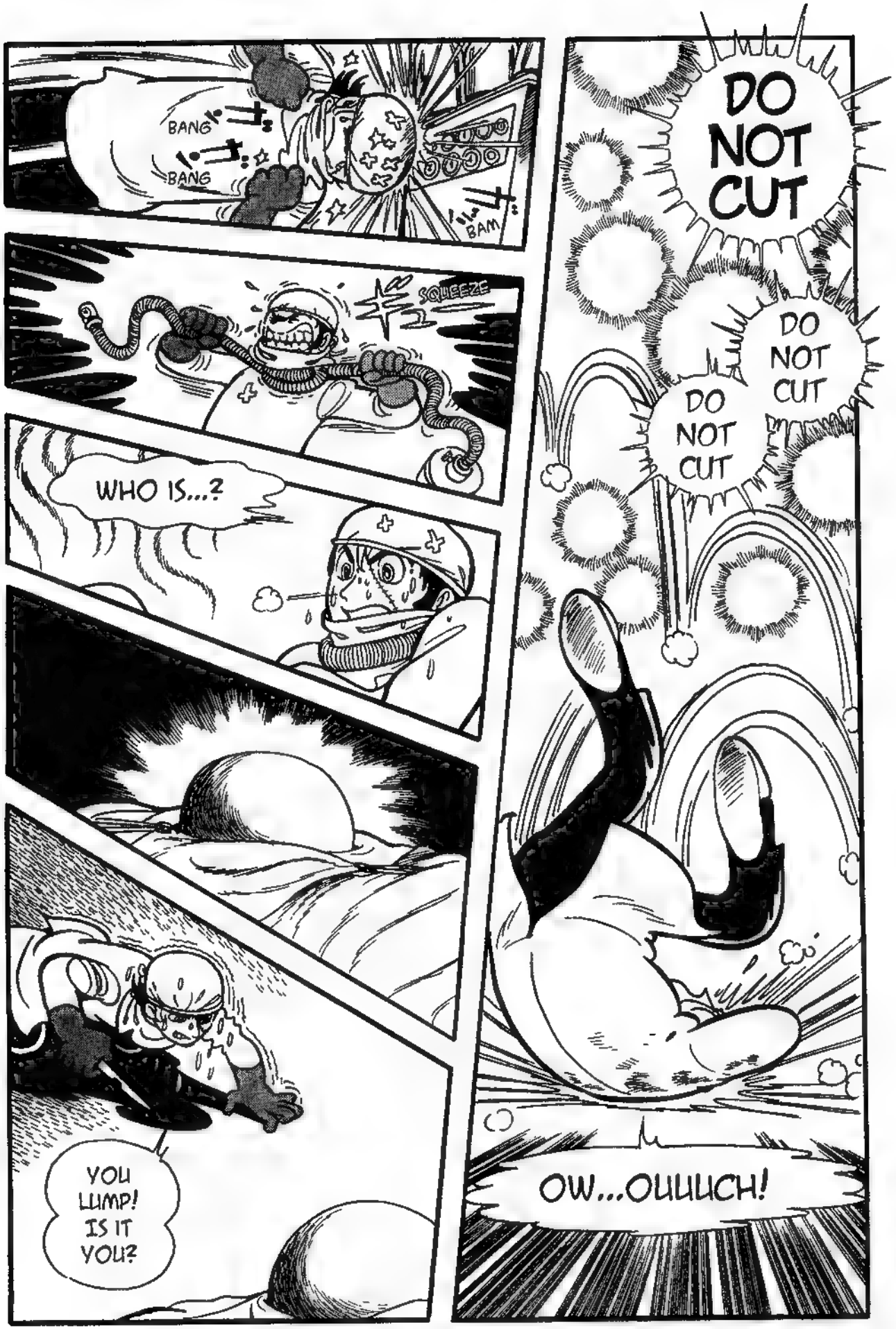
I CAN HANDLE THIS ALONE. PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE.
SHALL I ASSIST ?


AAAH!



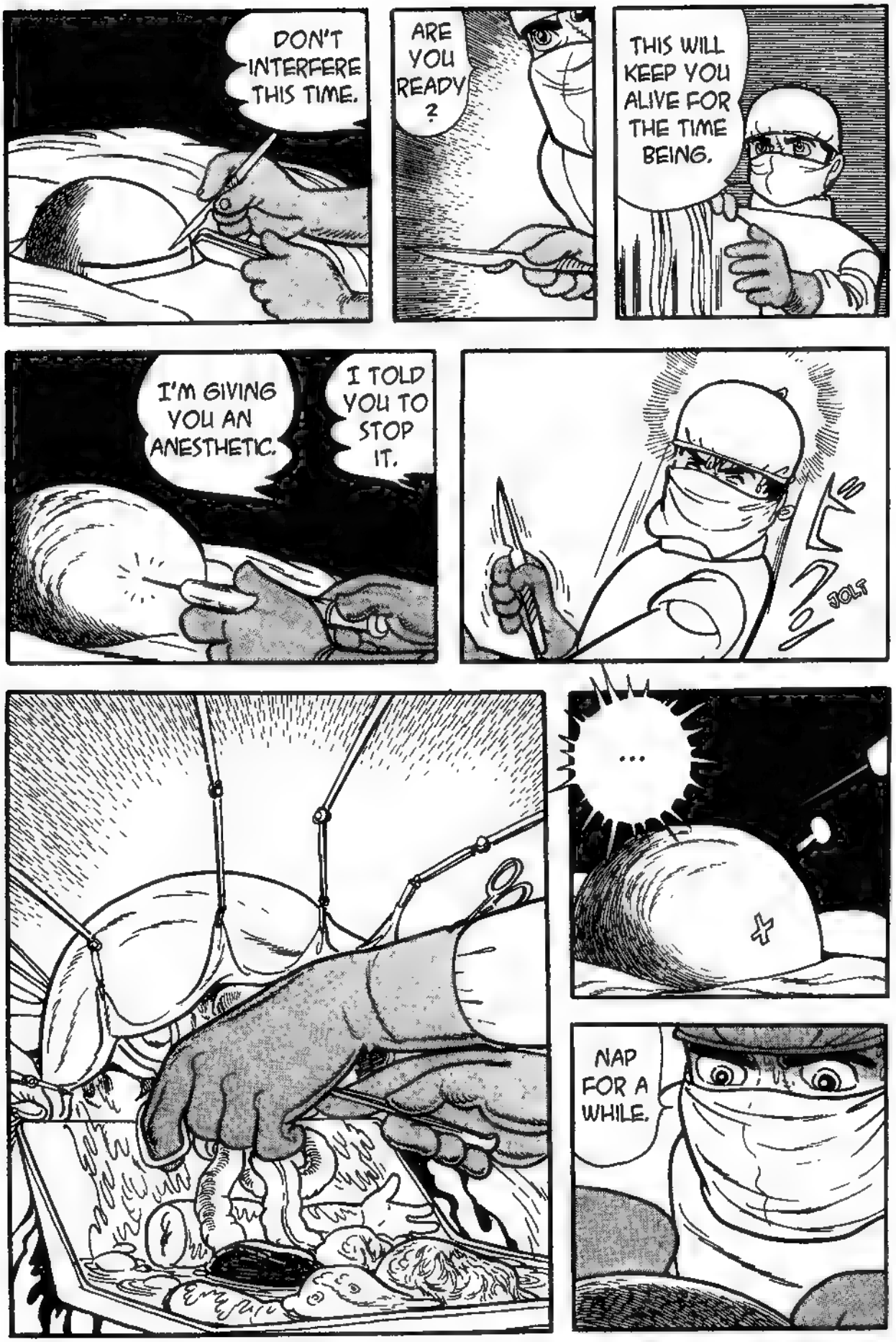


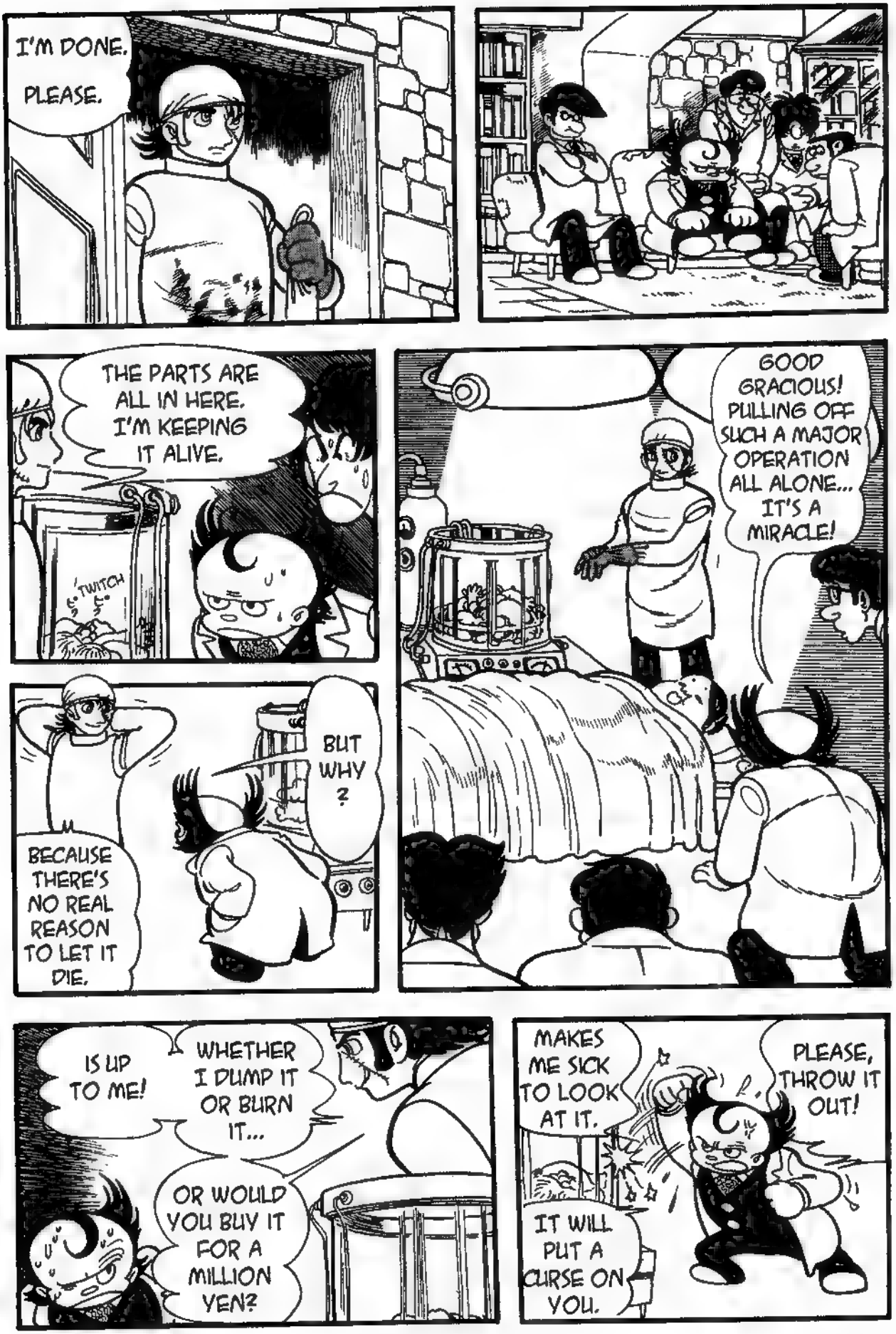
YARG! OW OW OUCH!
OW!!
OUCH
OW
AGH
DO NOT CUT
DO NOT CUT
DO NOT CUT
DO NOT CUT
PHEW... WHAT WAS THAT?


BANG
BANG
BAM
SQUEEZE
WHO IS...?
YOU LUMP! IS IT YOU?
DO NOT CUT
DO NOT CUT
DO NOT CUT
OW...OUUUCH!

NGG!
W... WAIT!
ACK ...
URR ...
I INTEND TO KEEP YOU ALIVE. RELAX!
YOU'RE A LIVING THING THAT HOLDS A HUMAN BODY!
LISTEN TO ME! I HAVE TO EXCISE YOU, BUT I WON'T KILL YOU.

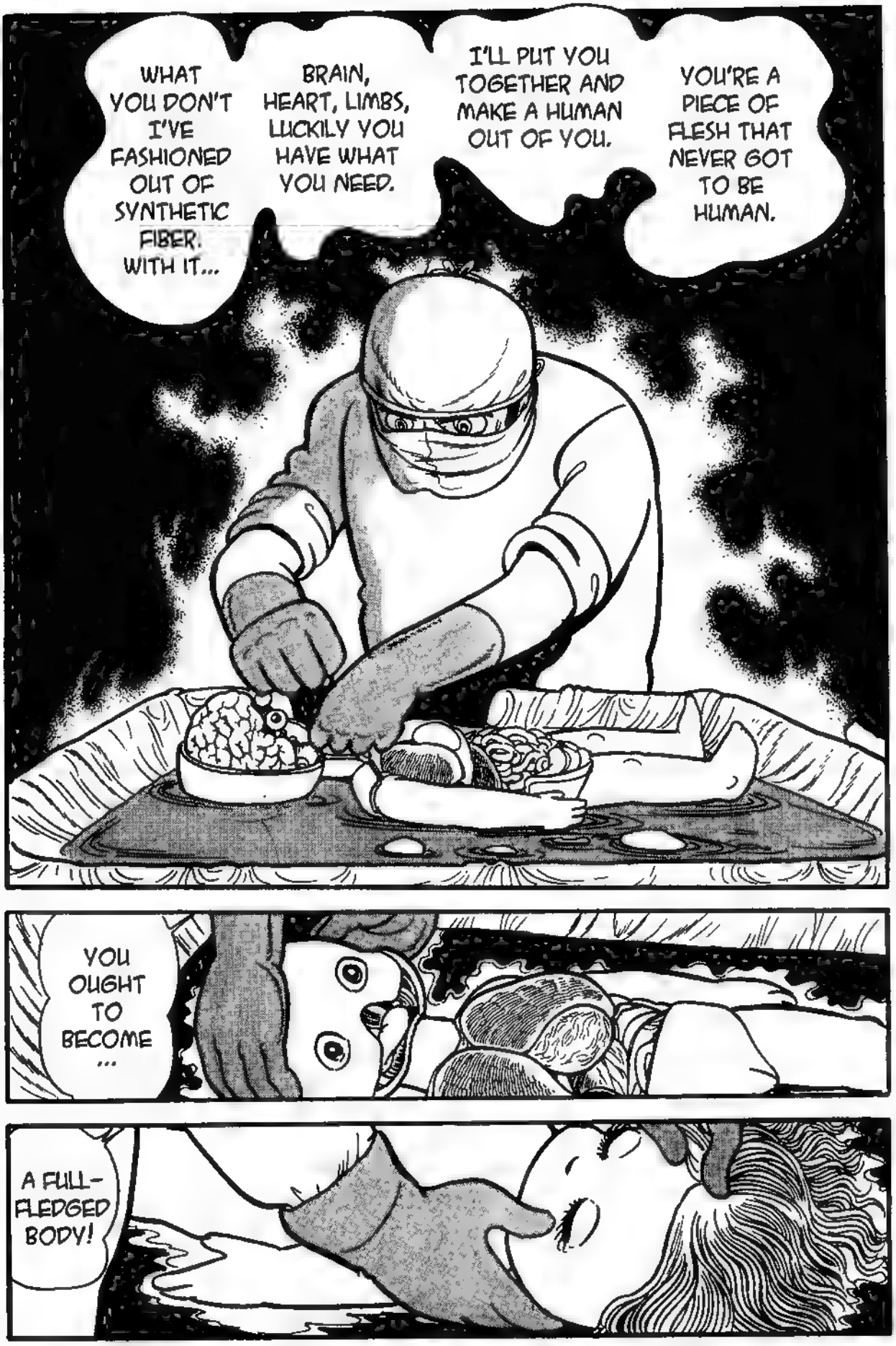
I'LL TRUST YOU.
H-HOW? WELL, I'D DIP YOU IN CULTURE MEDIUM...
HOW ?
WILL YOU REALLY?
THAT QUACK WAS GOING ON ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DOCTOR WHO CAN PERFORM ANY OPERATION, RIGHT? I THINK YOU CAN SAVE ME.
THAT'S A CHEAP WORD, "QUACK." DON'T USE IT.
HOW DOES THIS THING KNOW ABOUT ME?
CULTURE MEDIUM. I'LL PUT YOU IN HERE.


DON'T INTERFERE THIS TIME.
ARE YOU READY?
THIS WILL KEEP YOU ALIVE FOR THE TIME BEING.
I'M GIVING YOU AN ANESTHETIC.
I TOLD YOU TO STOP IT.
JOLT
...
NAP FOR A WHILE.


I'M DONE.
PLEASE.
THE PARTS ARE ALL IN HERE. I'M KEEPING IT ALIVE.
TWITCH
GOOD GRACIOUS! PULLING OFF SUCH A MAJOR OPERATION ALL ALONE... IT'S A MIRACLE!
BUT WHY?
BECAUSE THERE'S NO REAL REASON TO LET IT DIE.
IS UP TO ME!
WHETHER I DUMP IT OR BURN IT...
OR WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR A MILLION YEN?
MAKES ME SICK TO LOOK AT IT.
PLEASE, THROW IT OUT!
IT WILL PUT A CURSE ON YOU.

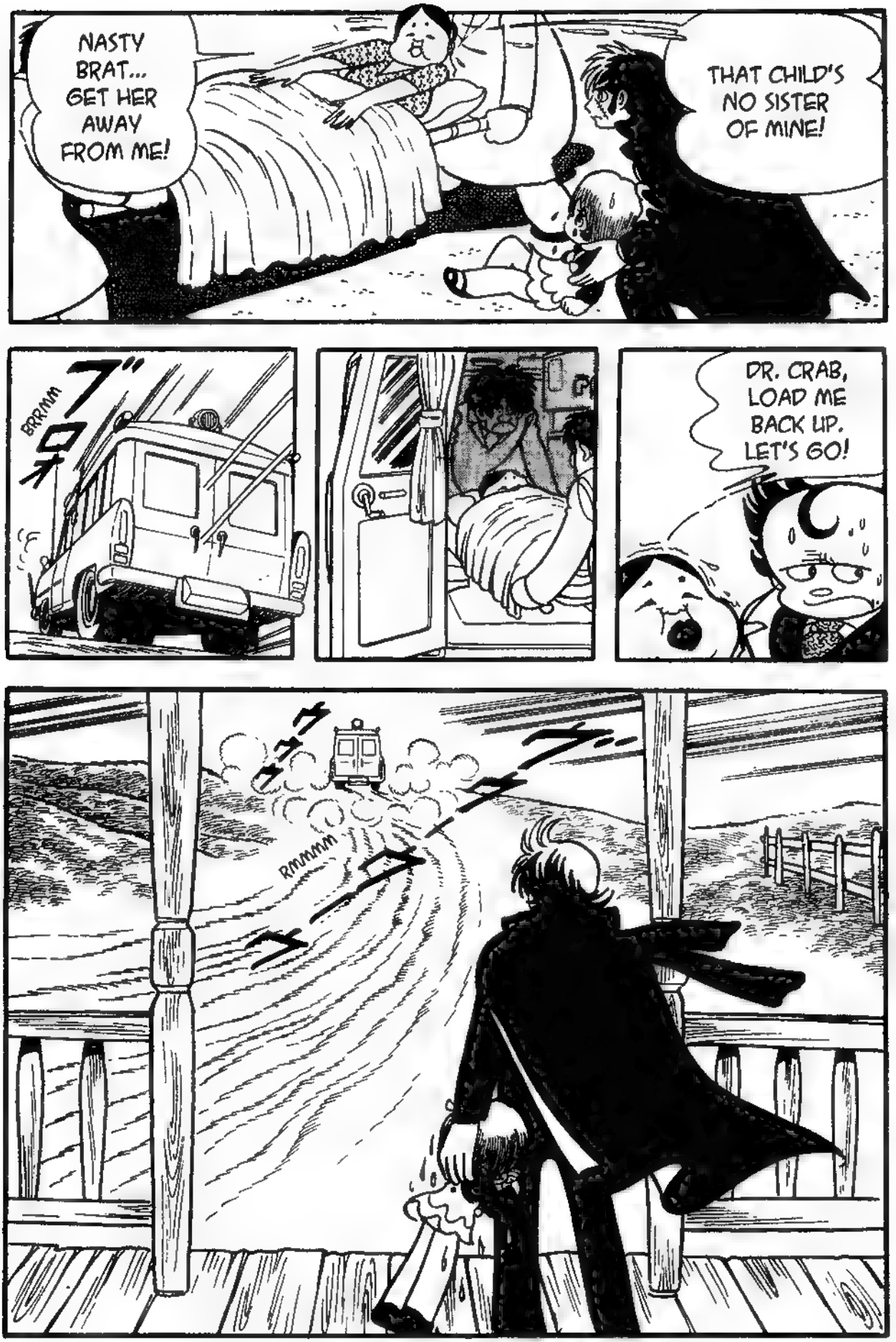
A SMOOTH RECOVERY.
THAT'S RISKY. WAIT UNTIL ...
IN A WEEK WE CAN TAKE HER TO SIDE SCUTTLE.
YEAH? THANKS A LOT!
WE CAN'T LEAVE THE PATIENT IN THIS UNHYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT FOREVER...
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, DOCTOR. BUT ALL THIS IS TOP SECRET.
DON'T GET ANGRY.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

KA-THLIP!
...


YOU'RE A PIECE OF FLESH THAT NEVER GOT TO BE HUMAN.
I'LL PUT YOU TOGETHER AND MAKE A HUMAN OUT OF YOU.
BRAIN, HEART, LIMBS, LUCKILY YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED.
WHAT YOU DON'T I'VE FASHIONED OUT OF SYNTHETIC FIBER. WITH IT...
YOU OUGHT TO BECOME ...
A FULL-FLEDGED BODY!

ONE YEAR LATER...
YOUR LAST CHECK UP. YOU CAN SAY GOODBYE TO ALL THIS UN-PLEASANTNESS.
OKAY, BRING HER IN.
HERE'S DR. BLACK JACK.
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.
GO AHEAD AND FORGET IT. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.

YOUR LITTLE SISTER— SAME AGE, IN FACT.
WHAT... I DON'T HAVE A SISTER.
BUT SHE GREW UP WITH YOU, YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
YOU'VE NEVER MET...
OGRE
GOOD FOR NOTHING
IDIOT
CADA VER
MUR DER ER
VAMPIRE
BEAST
STOP!

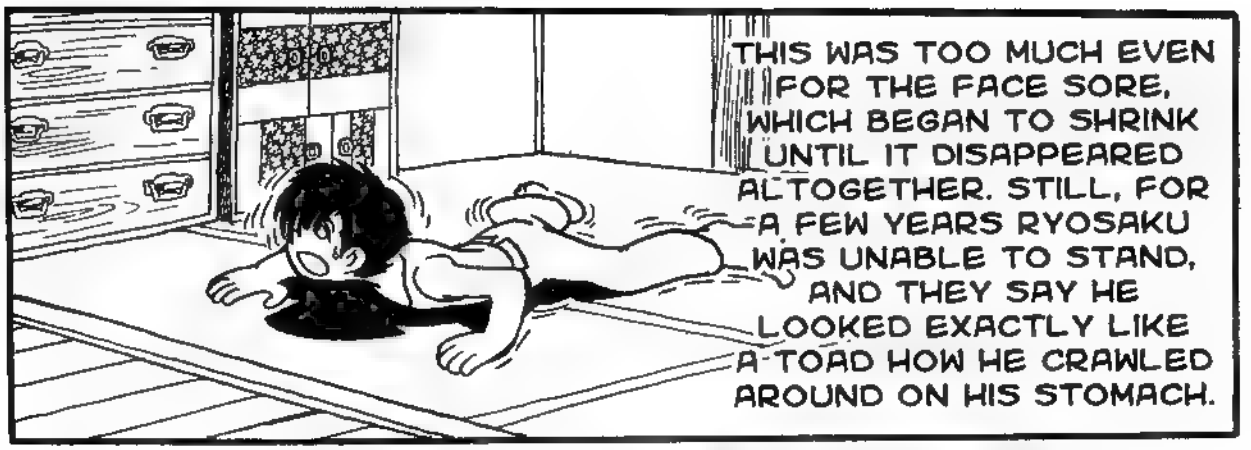

NASTY BRAT... GET HER AWAY FROM ME!
THAT CHILD'S NO SISTER OF MINE!
BRRMM
DR. CRAB, LOAD ME BACK UP. LET'S GO!
RMMMM

THE FACE SORE

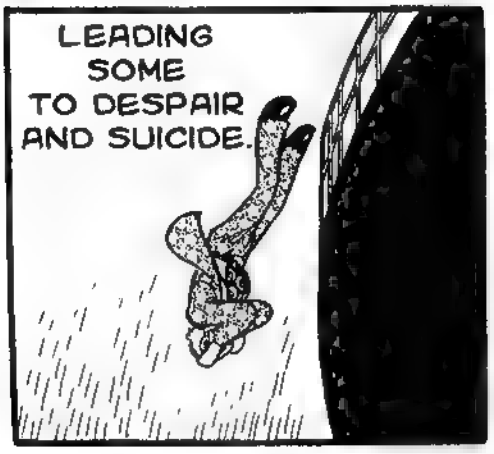
FLUID FROM THE TOAD'S BODY STAINED HIS STOMACH, BUT THE BOY THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT.
FALL 1939— IN SHIO VILLAGE, HAKUI COUNTY, ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE, RYOSAKU MIYAMAE, SON OF EI, KILLED A LARGE TOAD.
SEVERAL DAYS LATER, RYOSAKU HAD A HIGH FEVER. A LARGE SORE APPEARED ON HIS STOMACH, LOOKING VERY MUCH LIKE A TOAD THE WAY IT CRACKED OPEN.

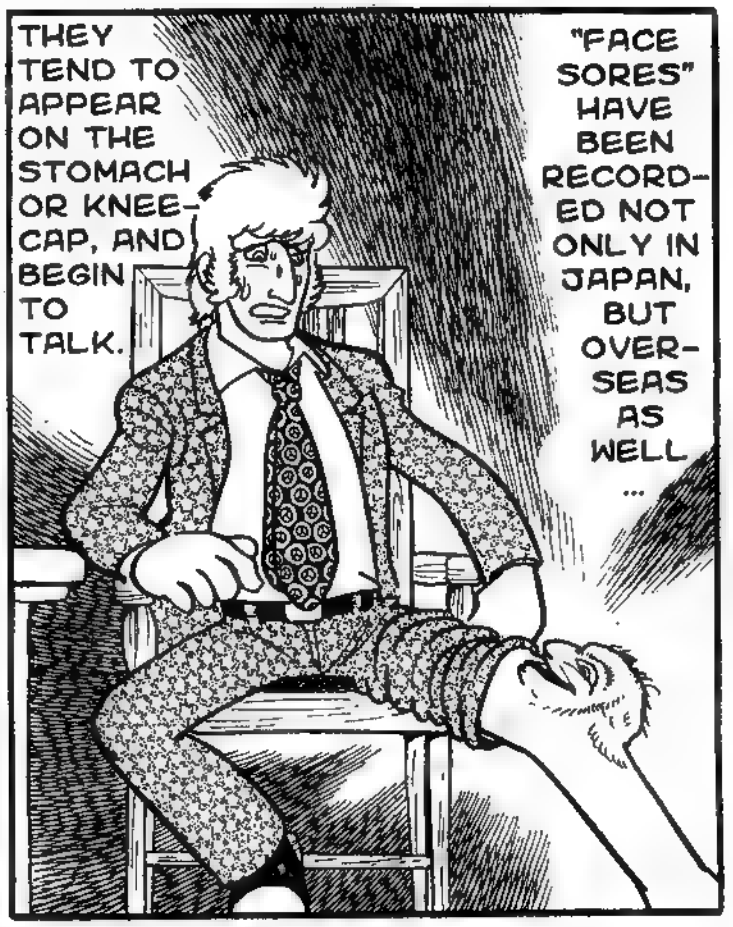
THE TOAD-LIKE WOUND OOZED A SLIMY LIQUID. IT GOBBLED UP THE BUGS THAT RYOSAKU CAUGHT FOR IT.
PEH
MONTHS PASSED BUT THE WOUND ONLY GREW, AND RYOSAKU FELL DEATHLY ILL. THE VILLAGE DOCTOR, SUSPECTING A CASE OF THE LEGENDARY "FACE SORE," ATTEMPTED TO APPLY AN OINTMENT. THE WOUND MENACED HIM LOUDLY—
AND SPAT MUCUS ON HIM. AT WIT'S END, HE MIXED PIPE TAR WITH OIL AND POURED IT INTO THE WOUND.

NOTE: "FACE SORE" = *JINMENSO*, A MONSTER FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE


THIS WAS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR THE FACE SORE, WHICH BEGAN TO SHRINK UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED ALTOGETHER. STILL, FOR A FEW YEARS RYOSAKU WAS UNABLE TO STAND, AND THEY SAY HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE A TOAD HOW HE CRAWLED AROUND ON HIS STOMACH.

SLICED OFF WITH A KNIFE, IT SIMPLY GROWS BACK ...

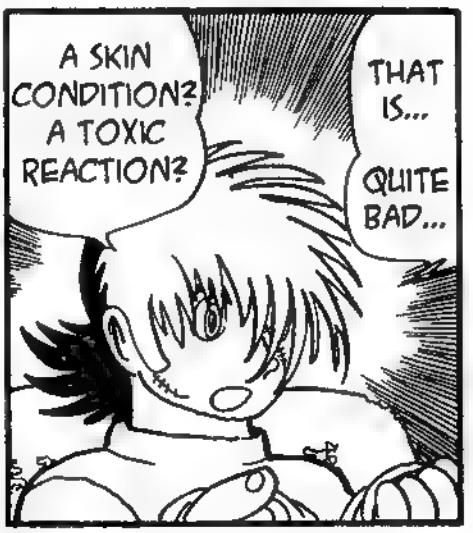

LEADING SOME TO DESPAIR AND SUICIDE.


THEY TEND TO APPEAR ON THE STOMACH OR KNEE-CAP, AND BEGIN TO TALK.
"FACE SORES" HAVE BEEN RECORD-ED NOT ONLY IN JAPAN, BUT OVER-SEAS AS WELL ...

BAM
SKREE
TOK
TOK
WE SPOKE ON THE PHONE; I SEEK TREAT-MENT.
WHY COME TO ME? YOU MUST KNOW I'M UNLICENSED.

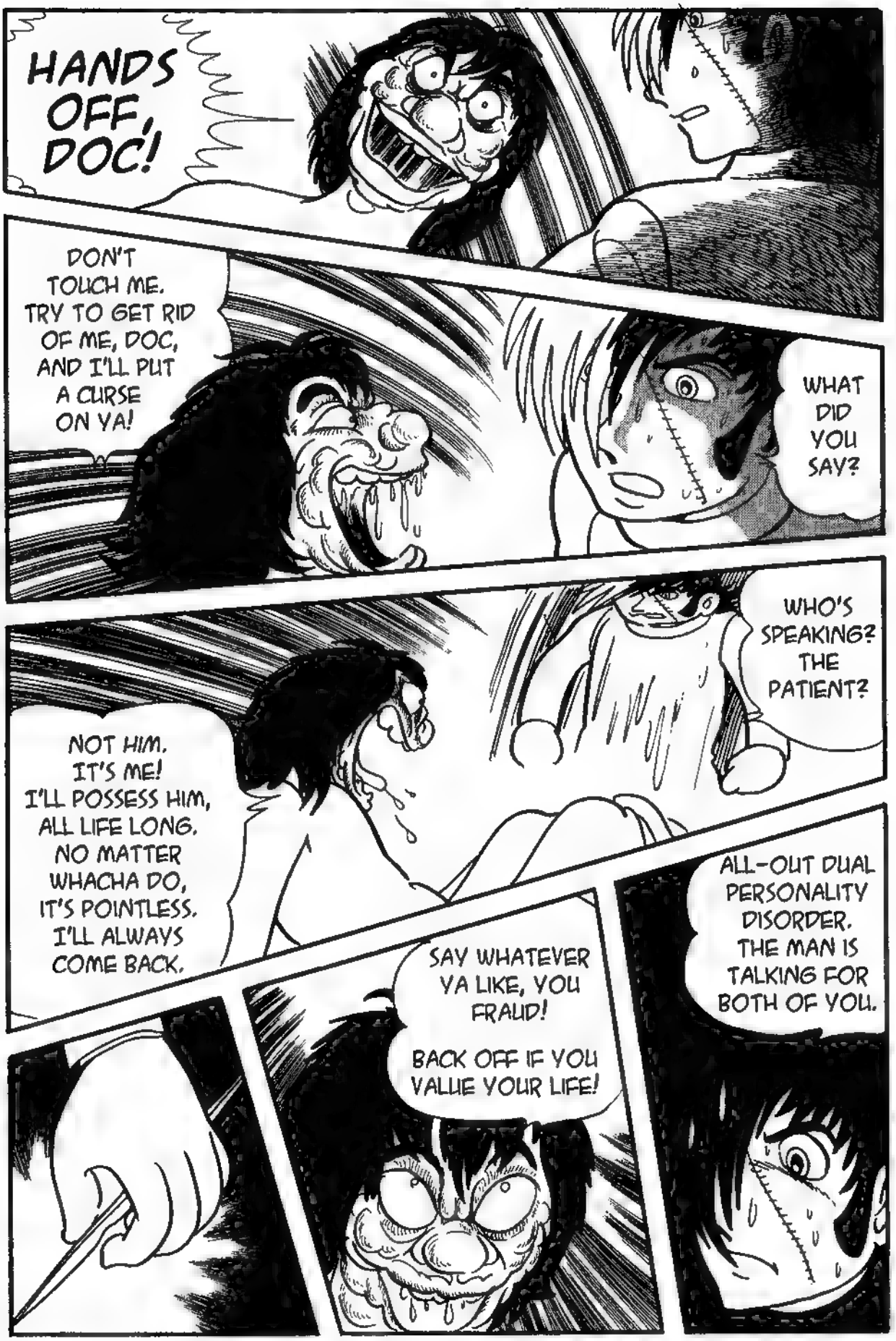
THAT'S WHY I CHARGE MORE.
I GET THAT A LOT.
I DO. FOR A CERTAIN REASON, I NEED TO BE TREATED IN SECRET.
THAT'S FINE. HOW MUCH?
CONSIDER IT A PREMIUM FOR PRIVACY.
WELL, IT DEPENDS ON THE ILLNESS, BUT INCLUDING COST, BETWEEN FIVE AND THIRTY MILLION YEN!
IF YOU'LL CURE ME, I PROMISE TO PAY. BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M CURABLE.

DOCTOR, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF FACE SORES?
IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF THING.


A SKIN CONDITION? A TOXIC REACTION?
THAT IS... QUITE BAD...

NO WAY!
WELL, YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT. THIS IS A FACE SORE.
IT DOES CROP UP IN FICTION AND LEGENDS.
THERE'S NO SUCH MEDICAL TERM.
BECAUSE OF THIS THING, I CAN'T MEET FOLKS, OR WORK...
SOMETHING CAUSED A BOIL TO GROW ON MY FACE ONE DAY. IT SPREAD QUICKLY ACROSS MY ENTIRE FACE UNTIL I WAS DISFIGURED BEYOND RECOGNITION.
IT BLABBERS AWAY, SAVING ALL SORTS OF THINGS AGAINST MY WILL!
HMM.
EVEN WORSE, THIS THING TALKS.

THEY'RE KNOWN TO SPEAK, RIGHT?
TH-THESE ARE MY OWN WORDS. BUT EVERY SO OFTEN, IT STARTS TO MOUTH OFF.
HOW ABOUT NOW?
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF IT!!
DOCTOR, PLEASE. GET THIS THING OFF MY FACE!
...
THESE ARE FURUNCLES OR CARBUNCLES. RASHES TURNED INFECTIOUS.
PLEASE LIE DOWN.
WELL, LET'S HAVE A LOOK.


HANDS OFF, DOC!
DON'T TOUCH ME. TRY TO GET RID OF ME, DOC, AND I'LL PUT A CURSE ON YA!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHO'S SPEAKING? THE PATIENT?
NOT HIM. IT'S ME! I'LL POSSESS HIM, ALL LIFE LONG. NO MATTER WHACHA DO, IT'S POINTLESS. I'LL ALWAYS COME BACK.
ALL-OUT DUAL PERSONALITY DISORDER. THE MAN IS TALKING FOR BOTH OF YOU.
SAY WHATEVER YA LIKE, YOU FRAUD!
BACK OFF IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!

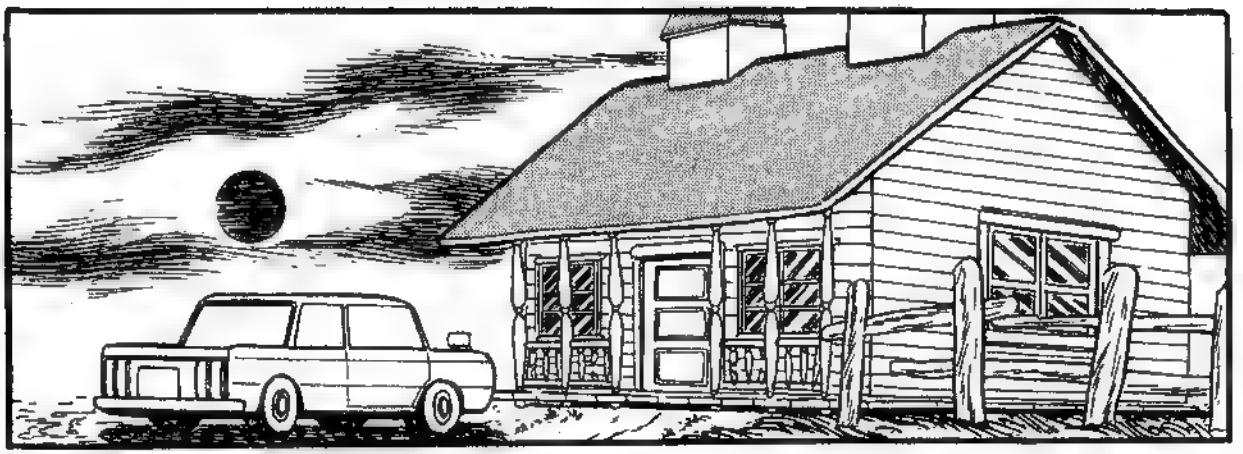
STOP!! YOU MORON! IMBECILE! CRETIN! YOU'RE REALLY GONNA OPERATE?
PIECE OF CAKE. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO REPLACE YOUR HEAD.
DOCTOR... CAN YOU REALLY CURE ME?
UGH ...
A LOCAL ANESTHETIC WOULD BE ENOUGH, BUT I'M PUTTING YOU BOTH TO SLEEP.
YAK
YAK
YAK
NYAH!! JUST YOU TRY IT! I'LL COVER YOU IN POISON AND GIVE YOU POCK-MARKS!
WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT HIM UP?

ALMOST LIKE THIRD-STAGE SYPHILIS.
ABNORMAL GROWTH OF EPIDERMIS AND SUBCUTA-NEOUS FAT. SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES.
2" GRIK
2"
3" GRIK
A FACE SORE... HA HA HA. NOW I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING.

YES, YOU'RE GOING TO BE AS GOOD AS NEW.
DOCTOR! WILL I GET BETTER?
DIDN'T I SAY YOU WAS WASTIN' YER TIME?
FRAUD!
PROOF THAT YOU'RE NEARLY HEALED.
MY FACE ITCHES ...
'COURSE, WHEN HE DIES, I GO TOO.
HEH HEH.
I AIN'T GOING NOWHERE WHILE THIS SUCKER'S ALIVE!
DOCTOR, WHAT IS IT? DON'T TELL ME...
WHY, YOU ...

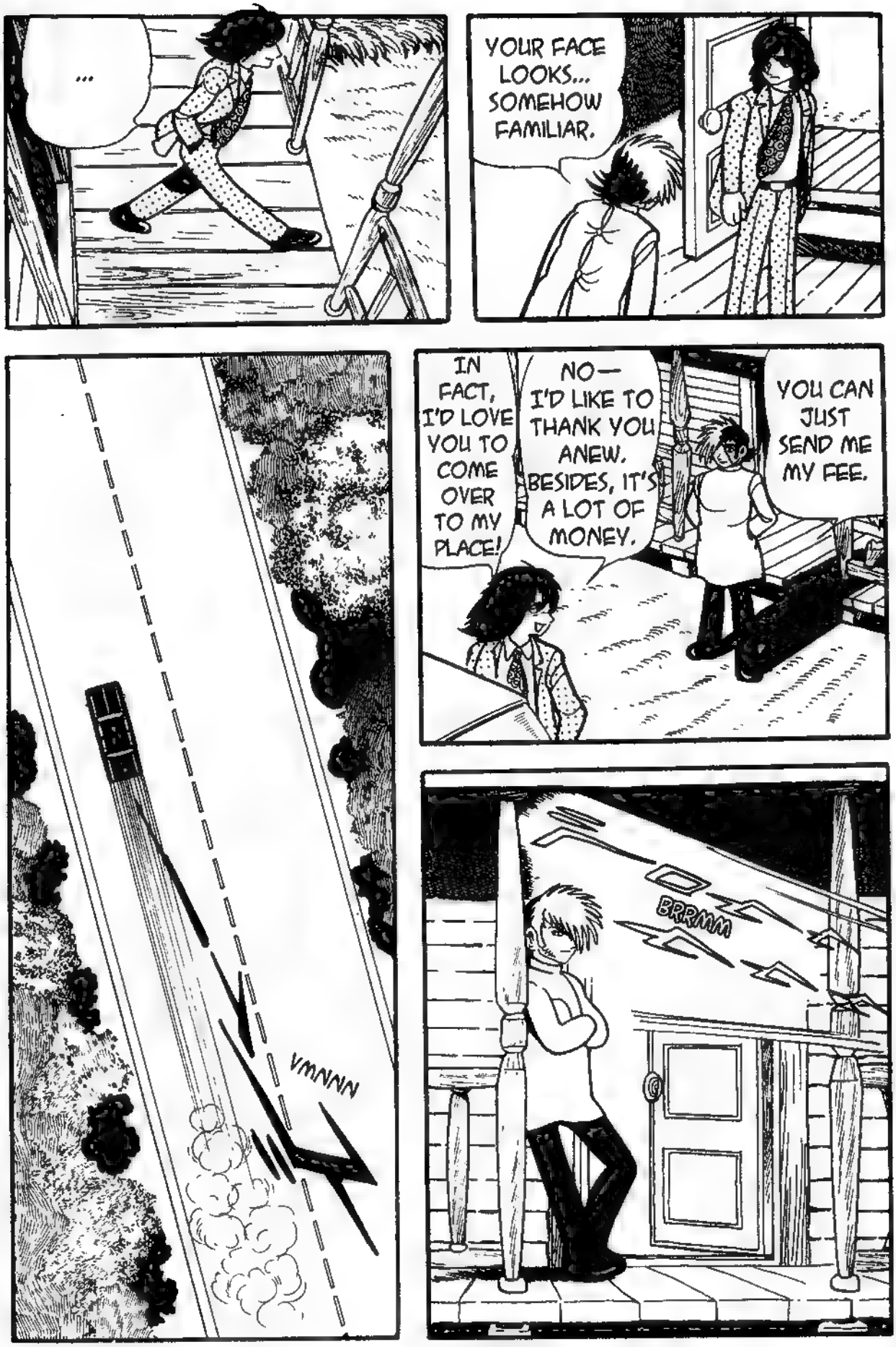
WHIP
...
NO...! MURDER!! HE-LP!
DOCTOR?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU GOING TO SHOOT ME?
IT WON'T LET GO OF YOU UNTIL YOU DIE.

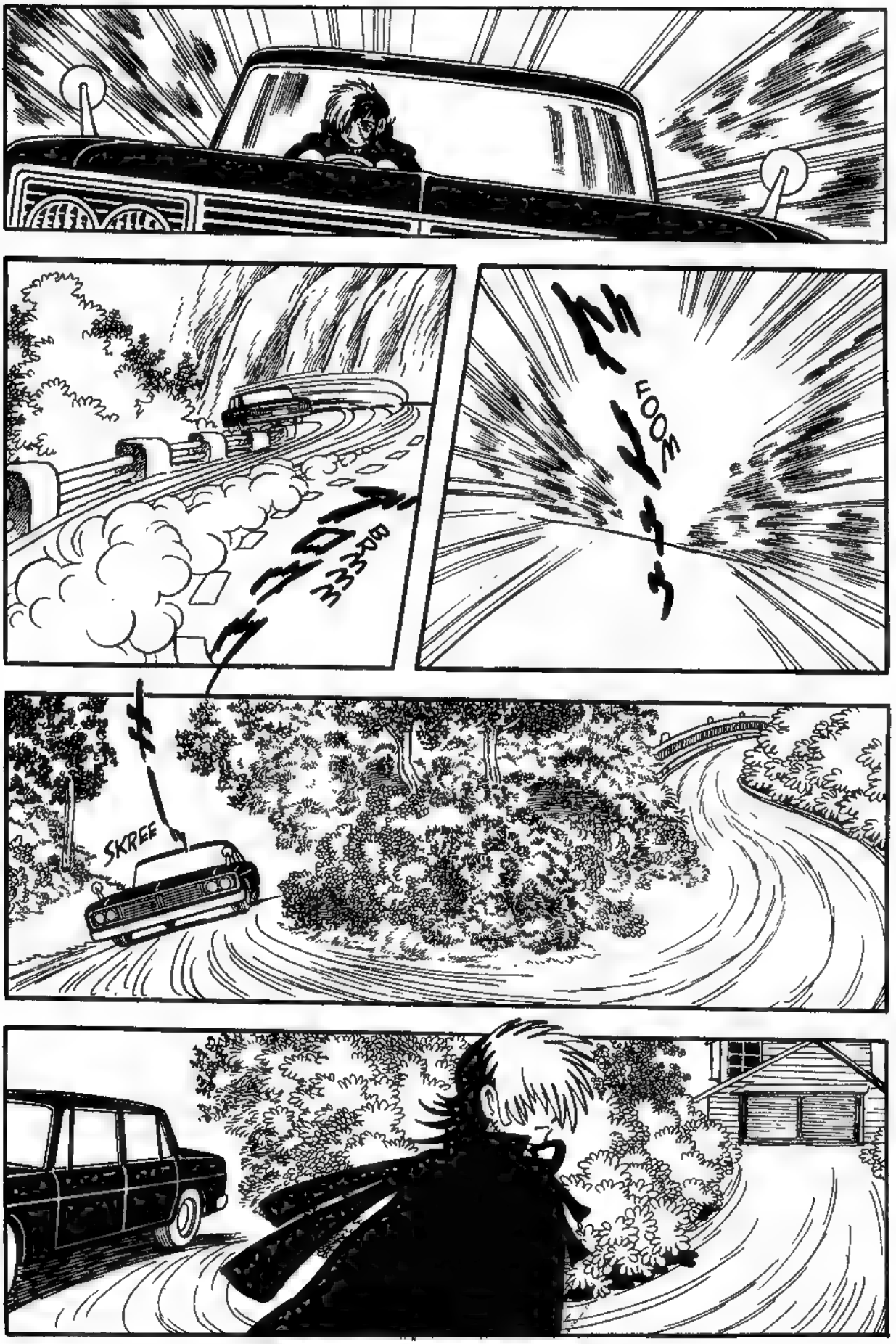
BLAMM
THAT MERE SLEEP CAN'T BANISH.
YOUR ILLNESS HAS SOME MENTAL CAUSE...
A LITTLE EXTREME, BUT I AIMED CAREFULLY.
THEN I'LL REDO THE PLASTIC SURGERY.
LET ME START WITH THAT BULLET WOUND.



I REALLY APPRECIATE IT, DOCTOR.

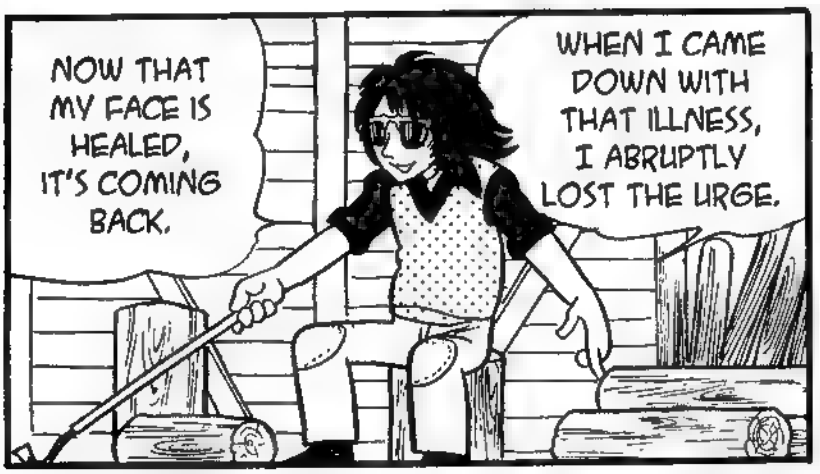
IT SHOULD BE GONE FOR GOOD NOW.

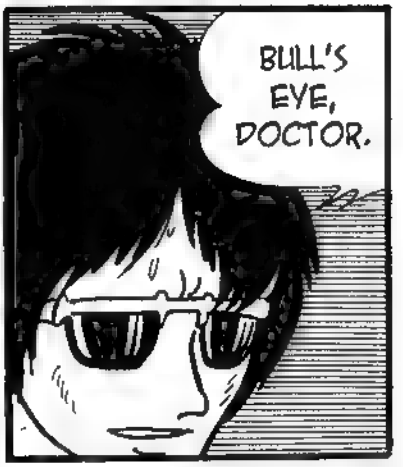

...
YOUR FACE LOOKS... SOMEHOW FAMILIAR.
VMNNN
IN FACT, I'D LOVE YOU TO COME OVER TO MY PLACE!
NO— I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ANEW. BESIDES, IT'S A LOT OF MONEY.
YOU CAN JUST SEND ME MY FEE.
BRRMM

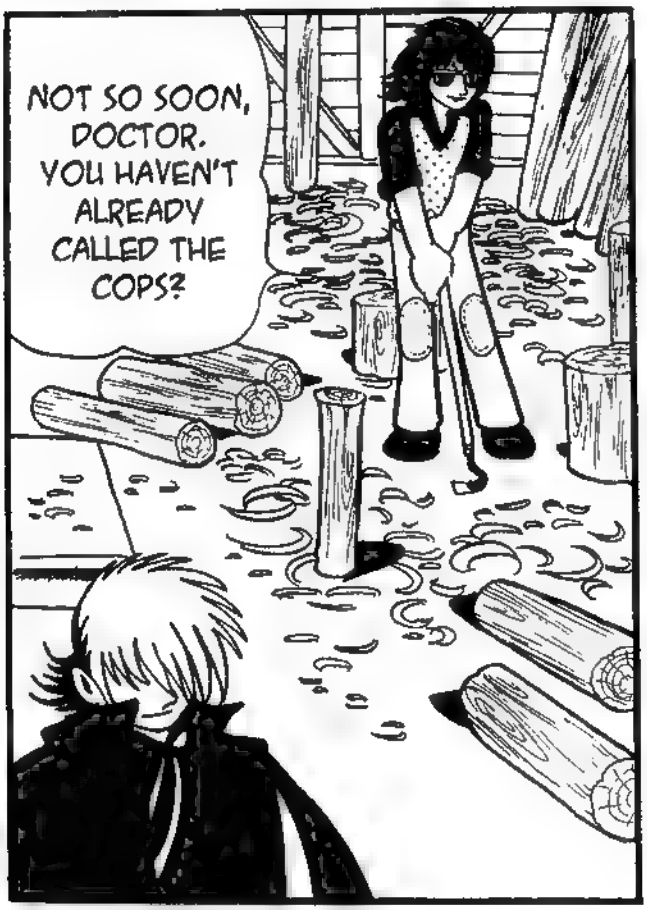

FOOM
SKREE

HOW'S YOUR FACE BEEN SINCE?
AH, DOCTOR! THANKS FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.
I SAID BACK THEN THAT YOUR ILLNESS MUST HAVE A MENTAL CAUSE.
JUST FINE. THE SORE NEVER CAME BACK.
I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE IN THE PAPERS A NUMBER OF TIMES. YOU'RE WANTED NATION-WIDE.
YOUR WORRIES MOUNT AND RESULT IN BREAKOUTS. ISN'T THAT SO?
SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU.
NOTHING'S TROUBLING ME!
THAT'S SILLY.
HA HA...

A SERIAL KILLER WHO'S KILLED FIFTEEN SO FAR... MEDICALLY SPEAKING, YOU HAVE A MURDER FETISH.


NOW THAT MY FACE IS HEALED, IT'S COMING BACK.
WHEN I CAME DOWN WITH THAT ILLNESS, I ABRUPTLY LOST THE URGE.


BULL'S EYE, DOCTOR.

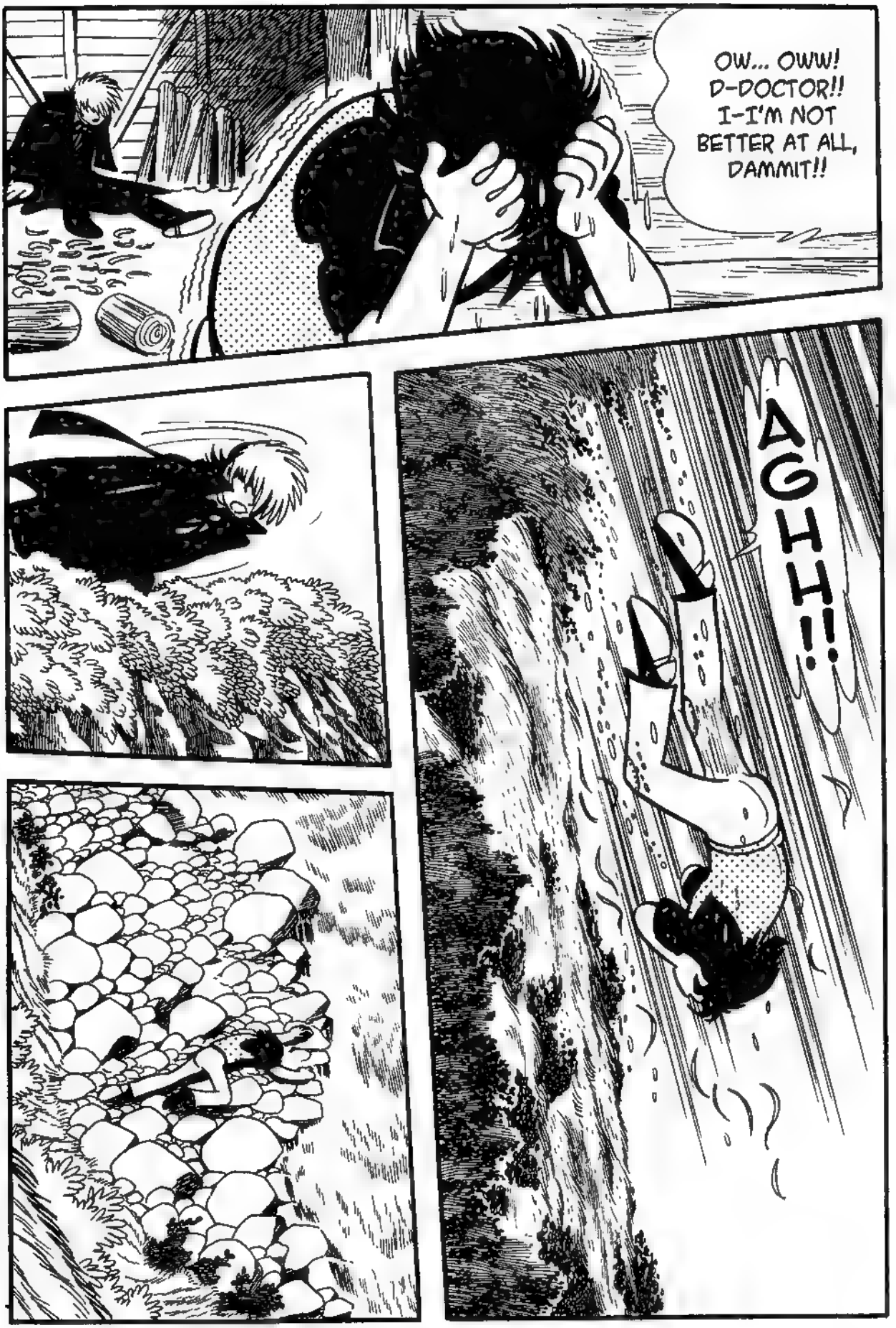

NOT SO SOON, DOCTOR. YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY CALLED THE COPS?

AND JUST THEN YOU SHOW UP.
MY HOBBY... I CAN'T HELP IT.

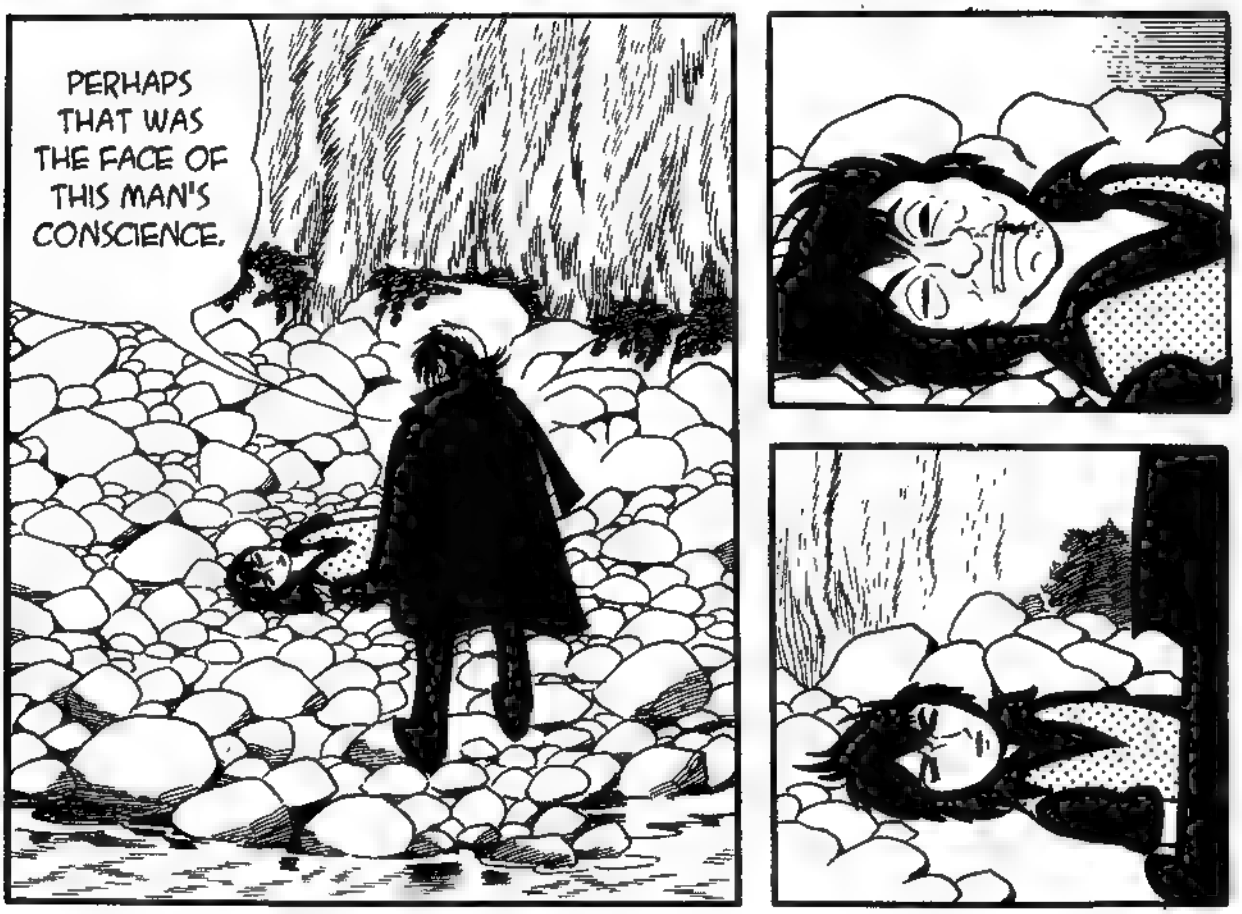
LEAVE ME OUT OF YOUR HOBBY.
PAY ME AND I'M OFF.

WHUD
SO YOU USED THIS TO BLOW A HOLE IN ME.
AH HAH, HOW WELL-PREPARED.
YOU BROUGHT A GUN WITH YOU.
YOU'LL BE THE NINE-TEENTH.
SEE THAT HILLSIDE? THERE SLEEP THE FIFTEEN YOU'VE READ ABOUT— PLUS THREE MORE.
TIME TO PAY YOU BACK— WITH THE SAME GUN, DOCTOR.

PERMIT ME, SINCE YOU'RE A DOCTOR, TO KILL YOU IN SOME FUSSY WAY! HA HA!
UH ...
DOCTOR? MY FACE... IT'S STARTING TO ITCH AGAIN.
THE FACE SORE!

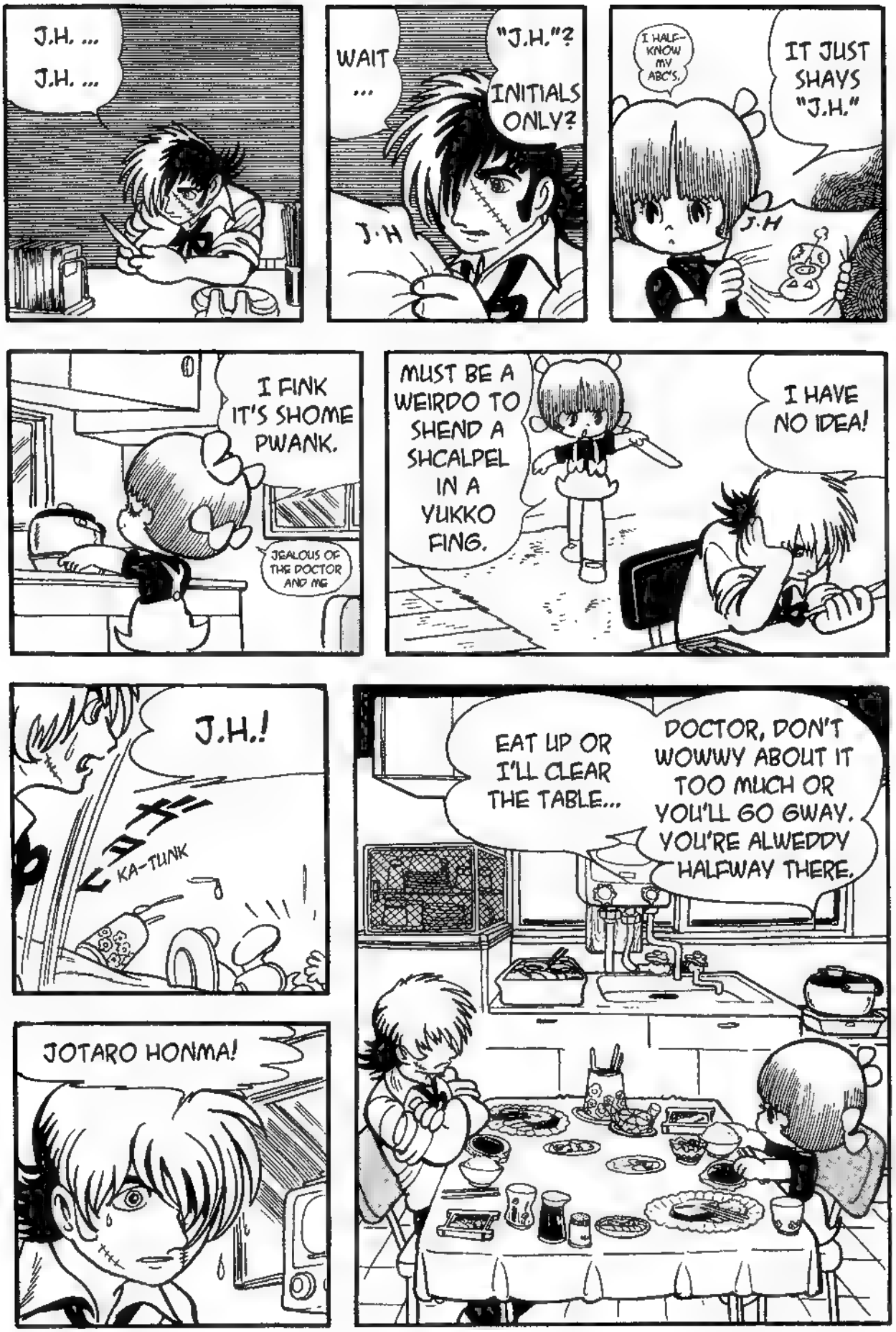

OW... OWW!
D-DOCTOR!!
I-I'M NOT
BETTER AT ALL,
DAMMIT!!
AGHH!!

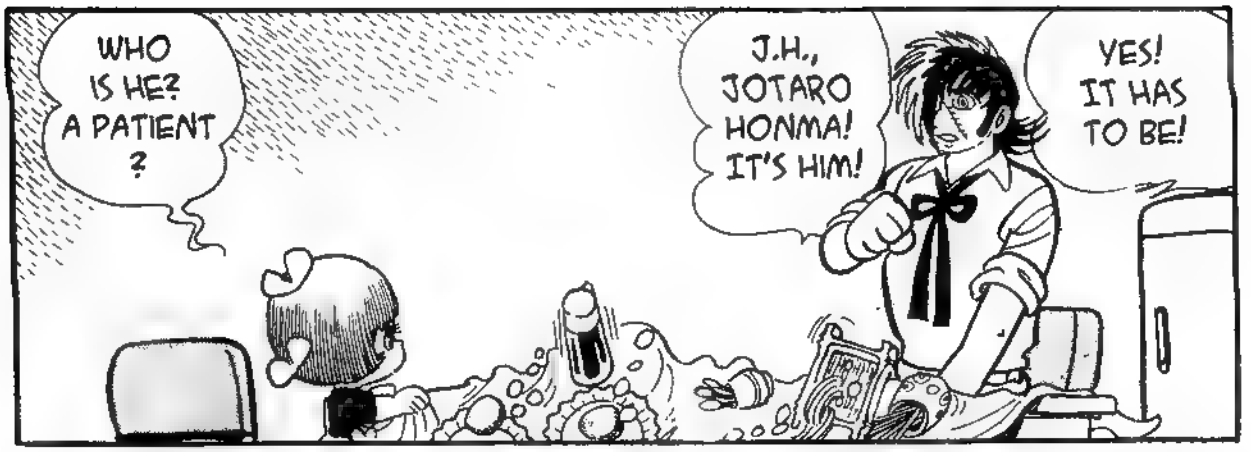
DO THIS GUY A FAVOR AND LET HIM DIE.
DOC... WE MEET AGAIN.
SO LONG, DOC.
THE FELLOW WAS CALM WHEN I WAS AROUND. TOO BAD I COULDN'T KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR GOOD...
DIDN'T I WARN YA NOT TO TOUCH ME?


PERHAPS THAT WAS THE FACE OF THIS MAN'S CONSCIENCE.

SOMETIMES LIKE PEARLS

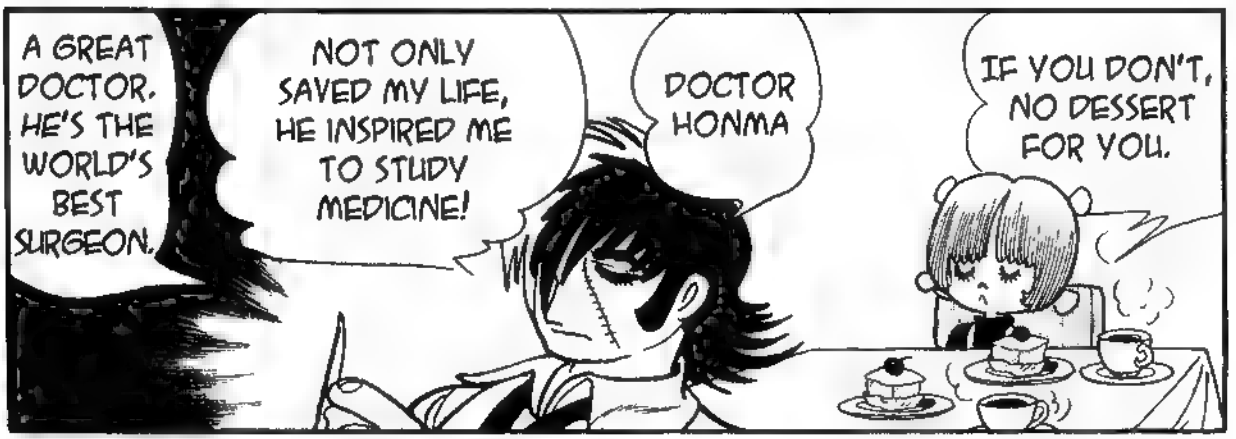
SHMALLER AND SHMALLER ...
HUNH
MAY I OPEN IT? IT'S MINE IF IT'S CANDY.
DOCTOR, PACKAGE FOR YOU!
YUKKO!
WHAT IS THIS FING? LOOKS LIKE A SHORD.
A SWORD ?
WHO'S IT FROM?
A SCALPEL ?


J.H. ...
J.H. ...
WAIT ...
"J.H."?
INITIALS ONLY?
J.H
I HALF-KNOW MY ABC'S,
IT JUST SHAYS "J.H."
J.H
I FINK IT'S SHOME PWANK.
JEALOUS OF THE DOCTOR AND ME
MUST BE A WEIRDO TO SHEND A SHCALPEL IN A YUKKO FING.
I HAVE NO IDEA!
J.H.!
KA-TUNK
JOTARO HONMA!
EAT UP OR I'LL CLEAR THE TABLE...
DOCTOR, DON'T WOWWY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH OR YOU'LL GO GWAY. YOU'RE ALWEDDY HALFWAY THERE.


WHO IS HE? A PATIENT ?
J.H., JOTARO HONMA! IT'S HIM!
YES! IT HAS TO BE!

WHAT?
TELL PINOKO.

THIS MUST BE FROM DOCTOR HONMA.
FAR FROM IT! HE'S MY MENTOR— AND MY SAVIOR...

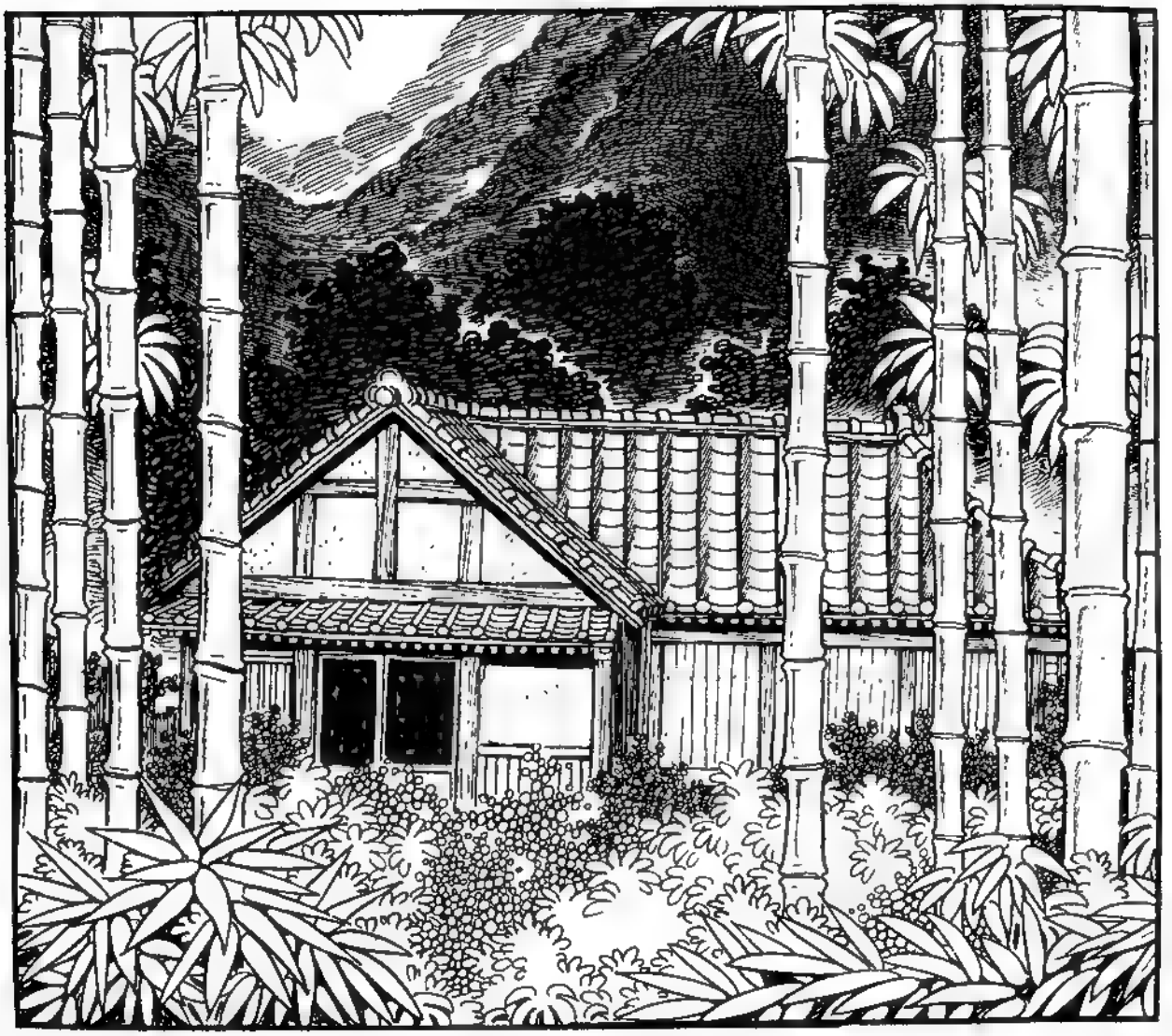

A GREAT DOCTOR. HE'S THE WORLD'S BEST SURGEON.
NOT ONLY SAVED MY LIFE, HE INSPIRED ME TO STUDY MEDICINE!
DOCTOR HONMA
IF YOU DON'T, NO DESSERT FOR YOU.

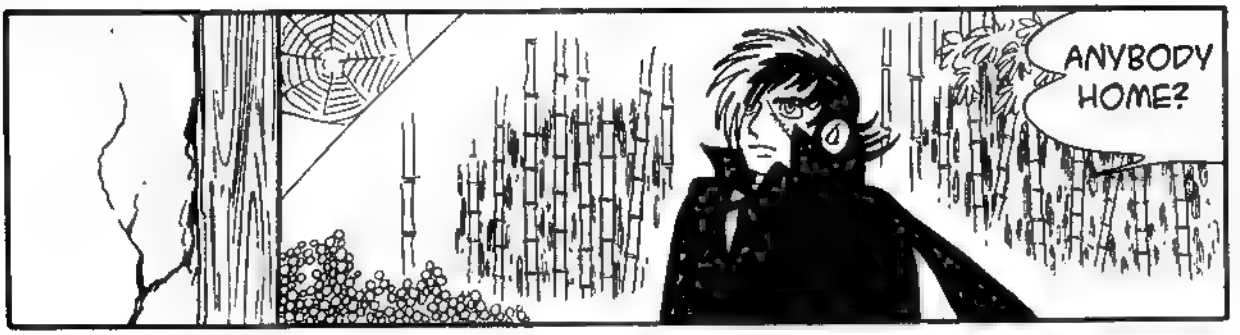
THERE'S SOME REASON FOR THIS.

THAT I TRULY RESPECT!

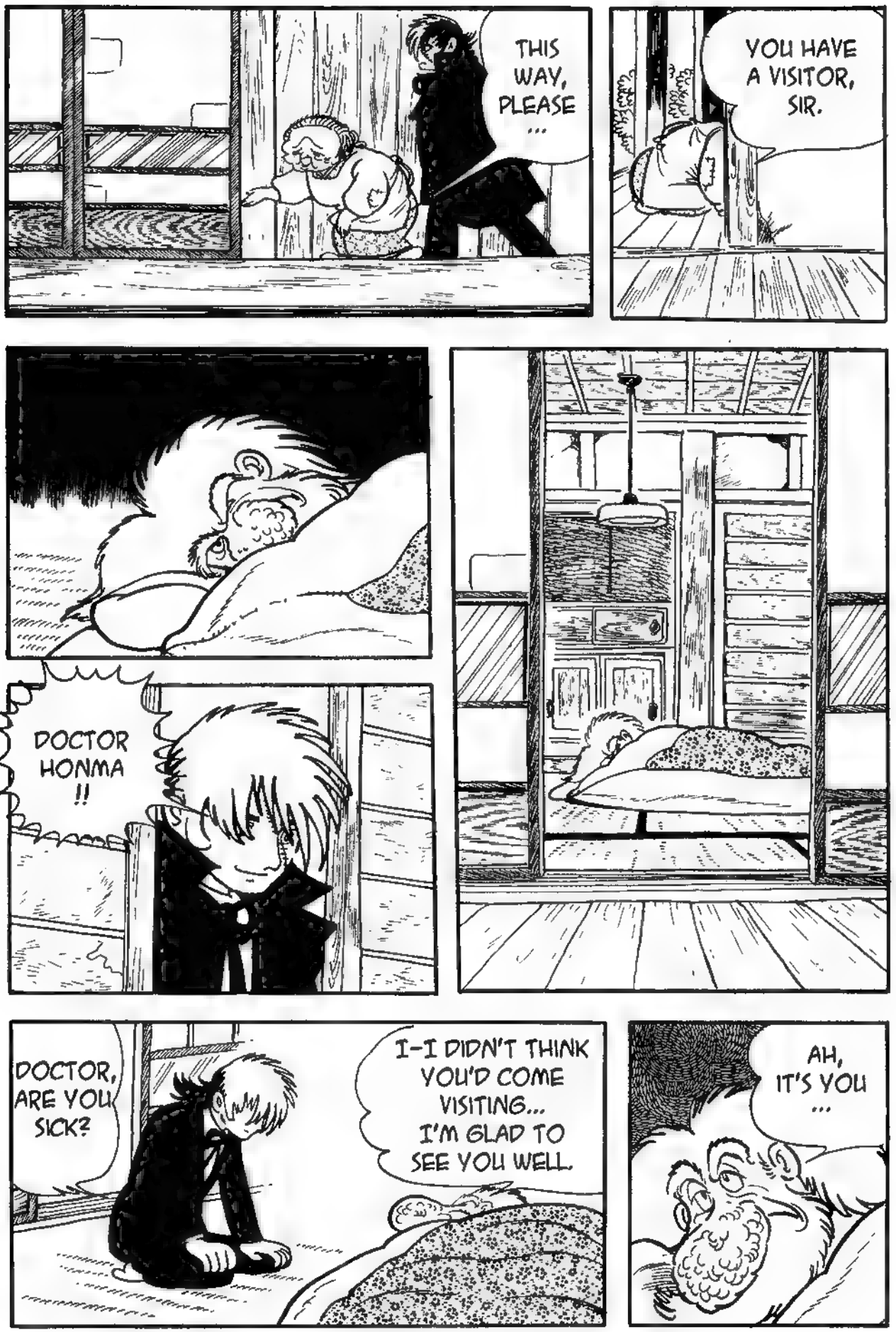
THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD...

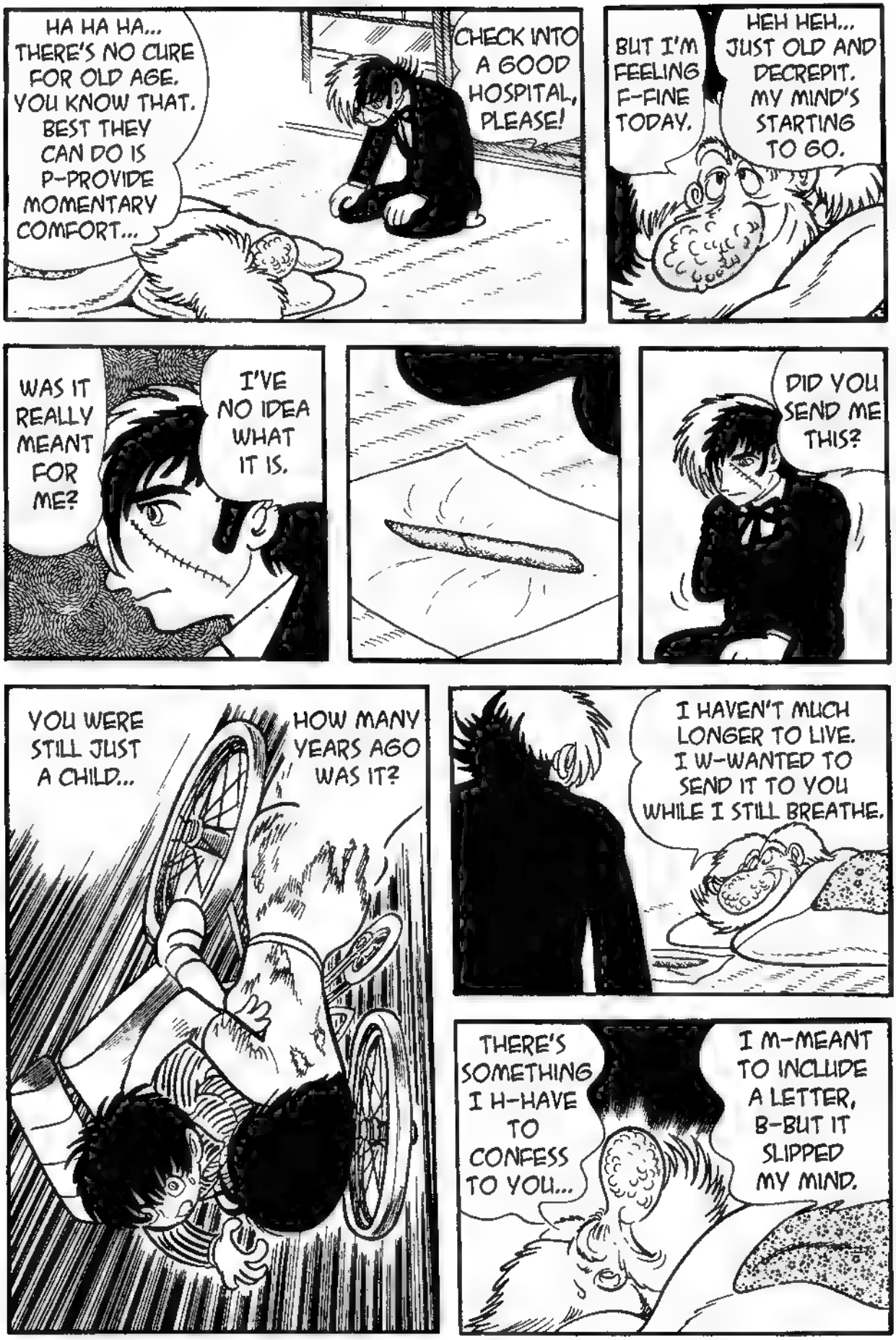
HONMA-SAN? RIGHT UP THAT-A-WAY. HE'S A DOCTOR?
I'M LOOKING FOR A DOCTOR JOTARO HONMA.




ANYBODY HOME?

I'M BLACK JACK... IS DR. HONMA HERE?

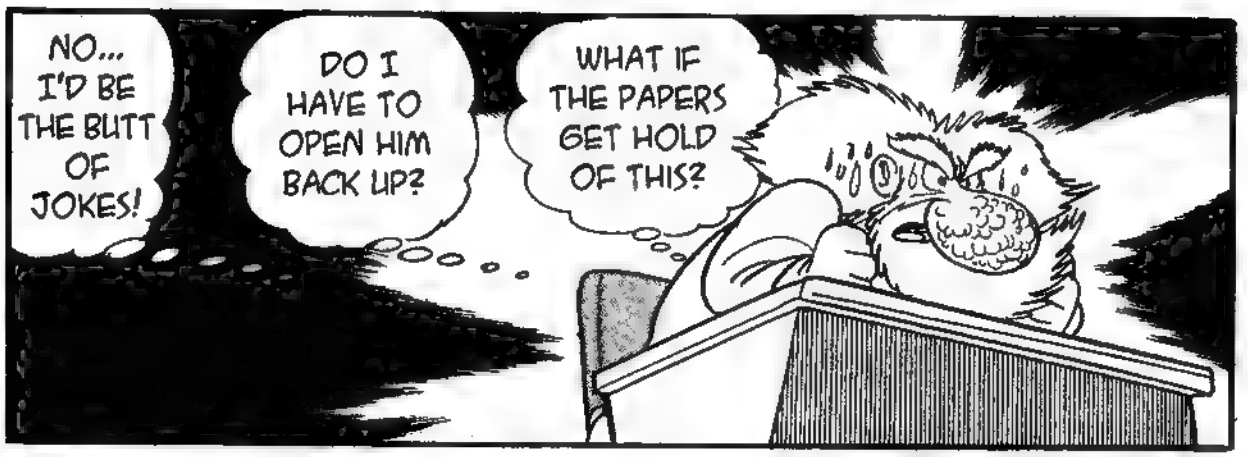

THIS WAY, PLEASE ...
YOU HAVE A VISITOR, SIR.
DOCTOR HONMA !!
DOCTOR, ARE YOU SICK?
I-I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME VISITING... I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU WELL.
AH, IT'S YOU ...


HA HA HA... THERE'S NO CURE FOR OLD AGE. YOU KNOW THAT. BEST THEY CAN DO IS P-PROVIDE MOMENTARY COMFORT...
CHECK INTO A GOOD HOSPITAL, PLEASE!
BUT I'M FEELING F-FINE TODAY.
HEH HEH... JUST OLD AND DECREPIT. MY MIND'S STARTING TO GO.
WAS IT REALLY MEANT FOR ME?
I'VE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS.
DID YOU SEND ME THIS?
YOU WERE STILL JUST A CHILD...
HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT?
I HAVEN'T MUCH LONGER TO LIVE. I W-WANTED TO SEND IT TO YOU WHILE I STILL BREATHE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I H-HAVE TO CONFESS TO YOU...
I M-MEANT TO INCLUDE A LETTER, B-BUT IT SLIPPED MY MIND.

WHEN THEY BROUGHT YOU TO ME, YOU WERE A MESS— SKULL, FACE, LIMBS, INTERNAL ORGANS. WE ALL THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER...
—YES, DOCTOR. AND I THOUGHT: DOCTORS ARE GREAT PEOPLE!
BY SOME MIRACLE, YOU HELD ON.
I DECIDED TO DO ALL I COULD.
I MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE DURING YOUR OPERATION.
I'M A PATHETIC QUACK...
A DOCTOR LIKE ME? HA HA...
AND DECIDED TO BECOME A DOCTOR LIKE YOU.

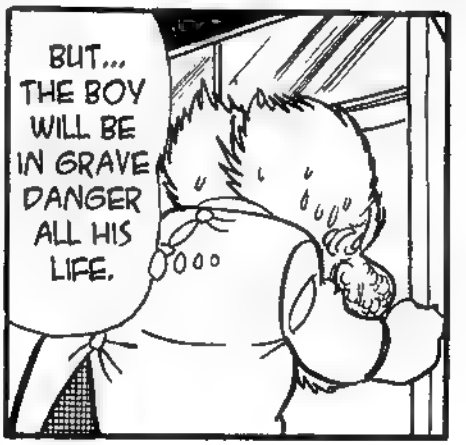
AND BEEN ROUNDLY CONDEMNED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC!
IF YOU'D DIED AFTERWARDS, I'D HAVE BEEN CAST OUT OF THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY
BUT IT WAS A GRAVE ERROR.
GULP
I'M TELLING YOU ONLY NOW,
SEVEN YEARS LATER, I OPERATED ON YOU AGAIN, YES
MEN AREN'T GODS. AND I'M NOT EVEN A GENIUS.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT YOU'D MAKE A MISTAKE.
WELL, AFTER THE FIRST SURGERY ...
YOU SAID YOU NEEDED TO CHECK UP ON THE FIRST OPERATION...
A SCALPEL?
WHAT ?
DOCTOR, WE'RE MISSING A SCALPEL.

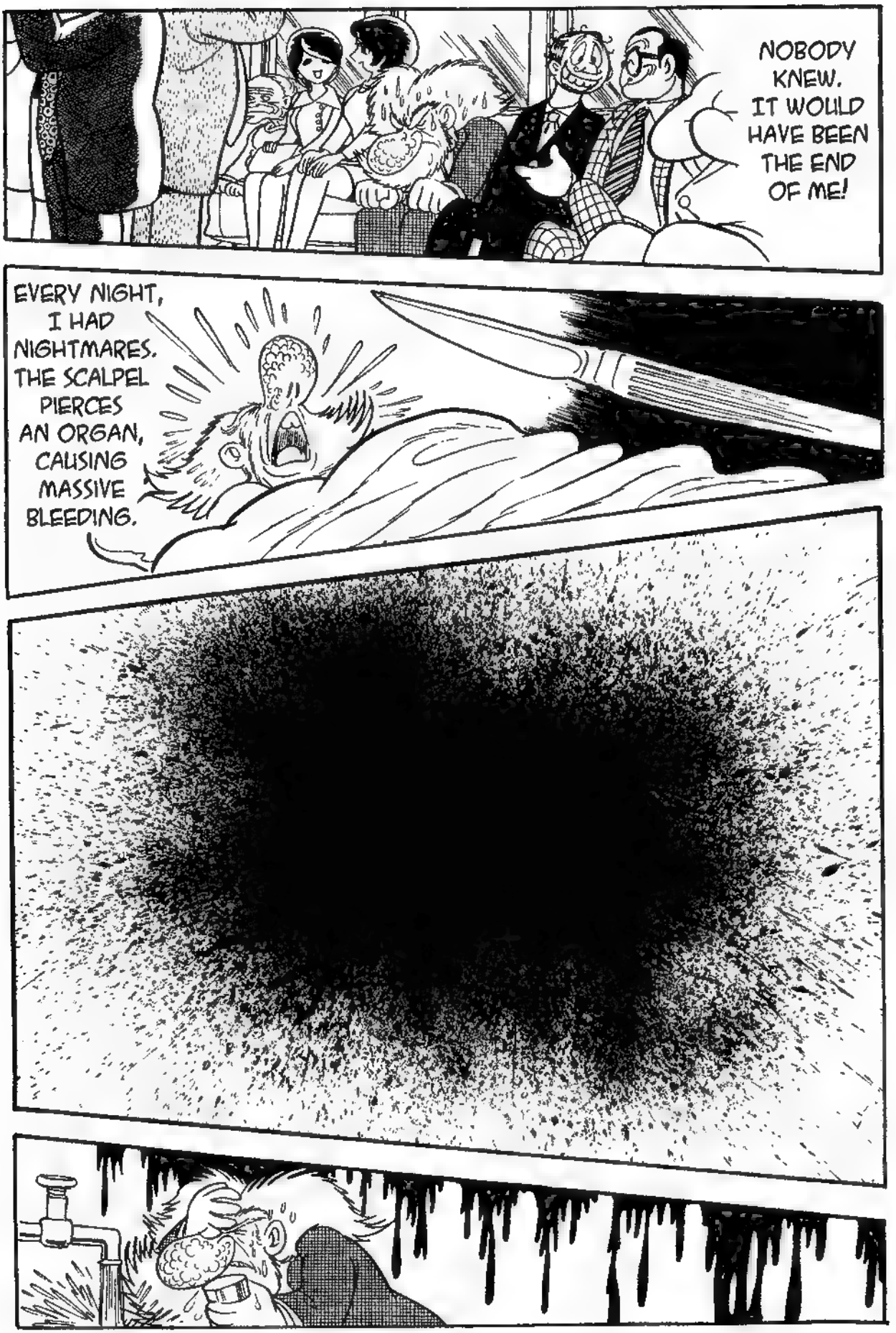
IT'S IN HIS ABDOMEN! UNDER HIS LIVER!
GOOD LORD! WHEN I STITCHED HIM UP... I LEFT IT INSIDE!

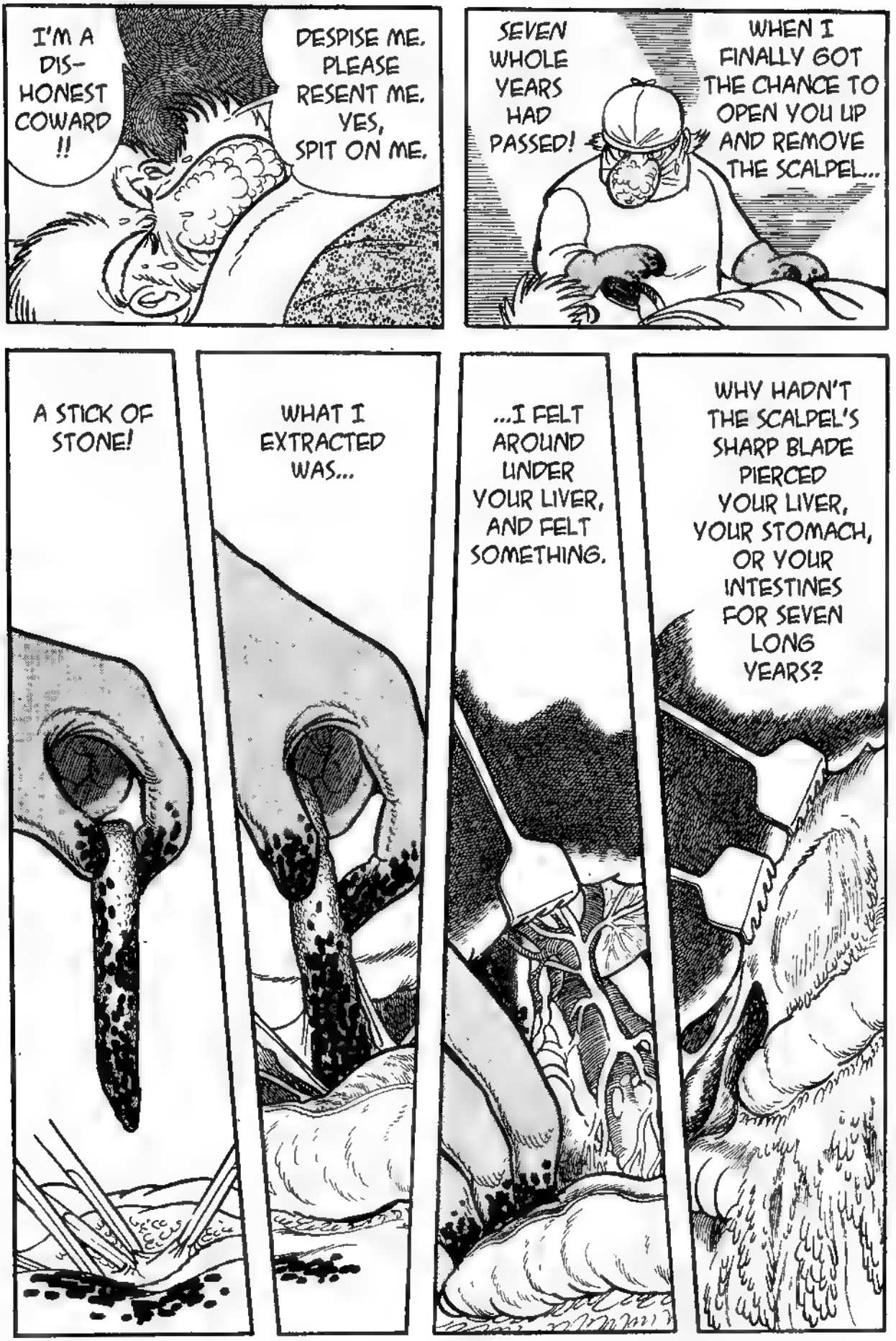

NO... I'D BE THE BUTT OF JOKES!
DO I HAVE TO OPEN HIM BACK UP?
WHAT IF THE PAPERS GET HOLD OF THIS?

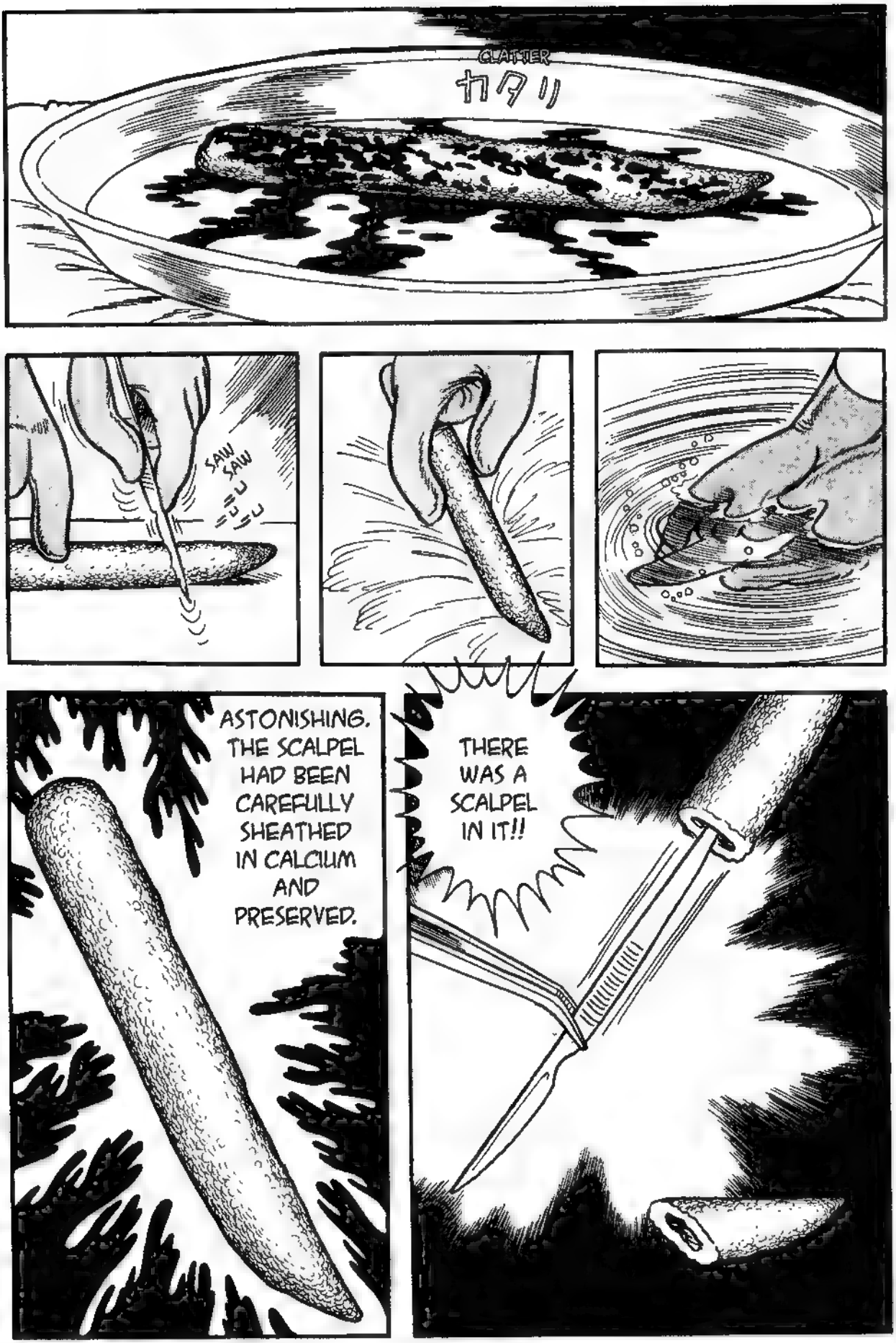
A FOOL!! I LET THEM DISCHARGE YOU WITH THE SCALPEL STILL INSIDE OF YOU!!

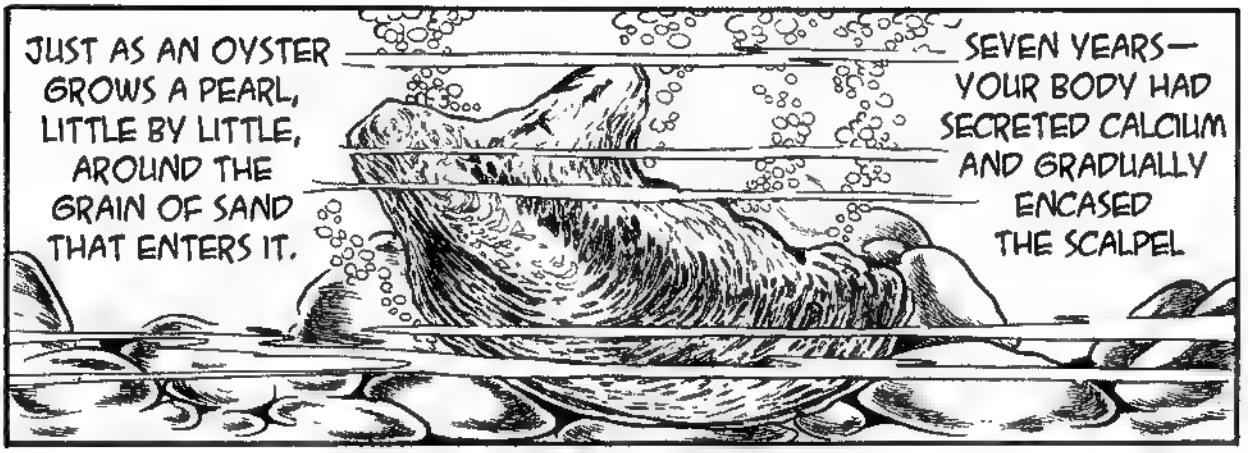
I'D BECOME A LAUGHING-STOCK IF I ASKED TO DO THAT.

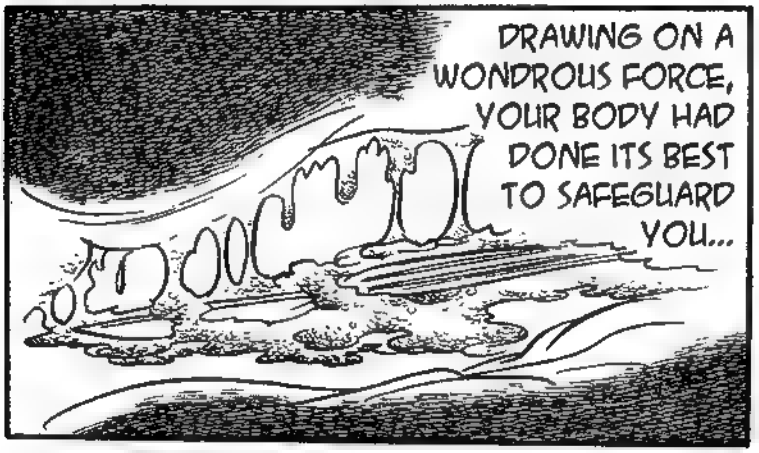

BUT... THE BOY WILL BE IN GRAVE DANGER ALL HIS LIFE.

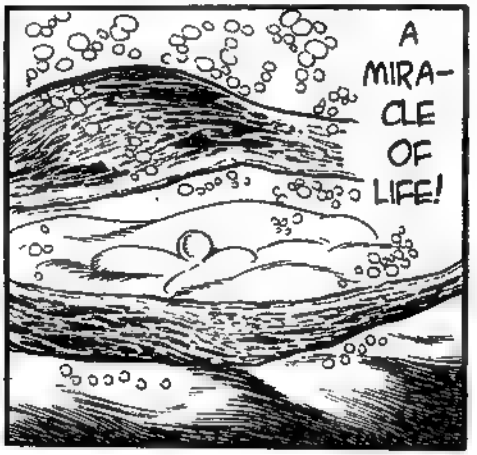

NOBODY KNEW. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF ME!
EVERY NIGHT, I HAD NIGHTMARES. THE SCALPEL PIERCES AN ORGAN, CAUSING MASSIVE BLEEDING.

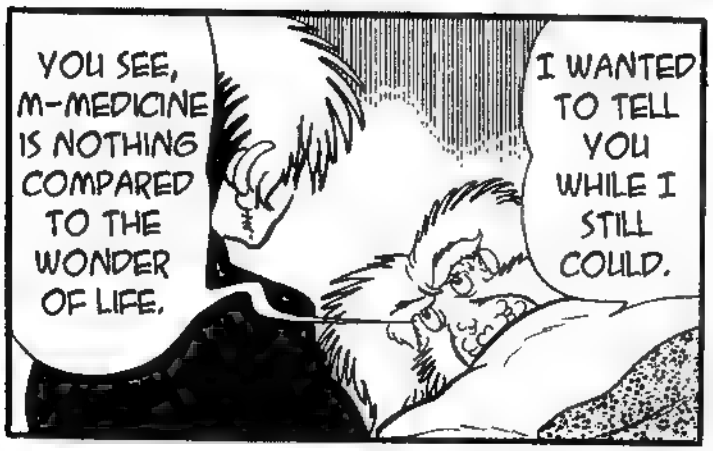

I'M A DIS-HONEST COWARD !!
DESPISE ME. PLEASE RESENT ME. YES, SPIT ON ME.
SEVEN WHOLE YEARS HAD PASSED!
WHEN I FINALLY GOT THE CHANCE TO OPEN YOU UP AND REMOVE THE SCALPEL...
A STICK OF STONE!
WHAT I EXTRACTED WAS...
...I FELT AROUND UNDER YOUR LIVER, AND FELT SOMETHING.
WHY HADN'T THE SCALPEL'S SHARP BLADE PIERCED YOUR LIVER, YOUR STOMACH, OR YOUR INTESTINES FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS?


CLATTER
カタリ
SAW SAW
ASTONISHING. THE SCALPEL HAD BEEN CAREFULLY SHEATHED IN CALCIUM AND PRESERVED.
THERE WAS A SCALPEL IN IT!!


JUST AS AN OYSTER GROWS A PEARL, LITTLE BY LITTLE, AROUND THE GRAIN OF SAND THAT ENTERS IT.
SEVEN YEARS— YOUR BODY HAD SECRETED CALCIUM AND GRADUALLY ENCASED THE SCALPEL


DRAWING ON A WONDROUS FORCE, YOUR BODY HAD DONE ITS BEST TO SAFEGUARD YOU...


A MIRA-CLE OF LIFE!

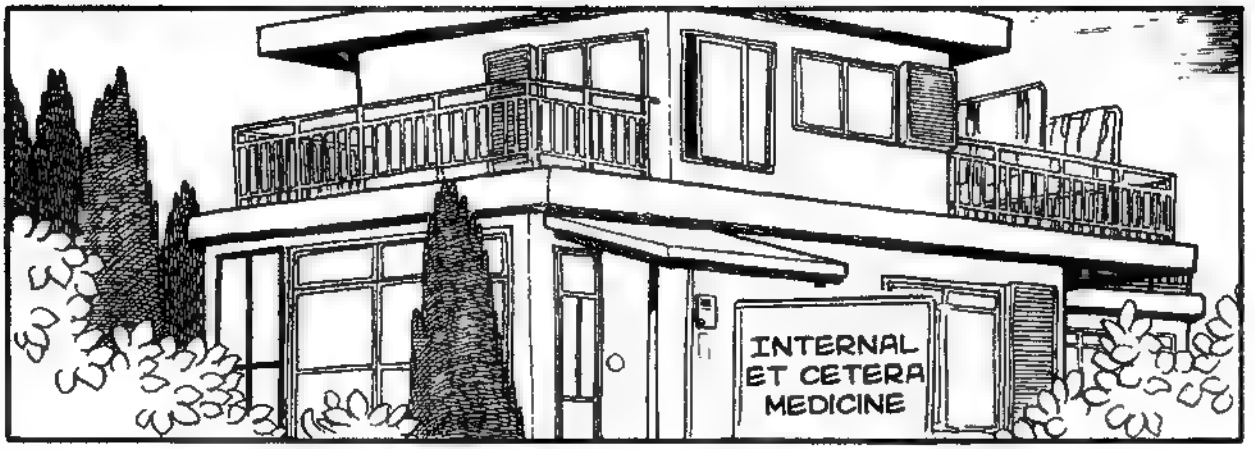

YOU SEE, M-MEDICINE IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE WONDER OF LIFE.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU WHILE I STILL COULD.

SO... IT'S A PART OF YOU... KEEP IT AS A MEMENTO.

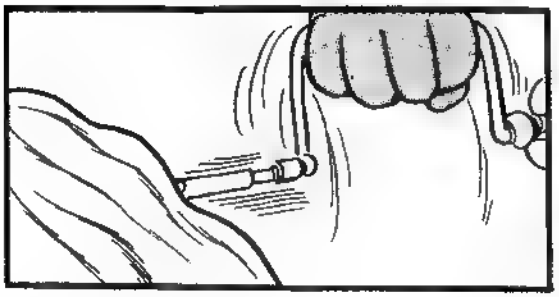
DOCTOR !!
SLUMP

FOR US HUMANS TO CRAVE CONTROL OVER LIFE AND DEATH IS SHEER ARROGANCE, DON'T Y-Y-YOU THINK?

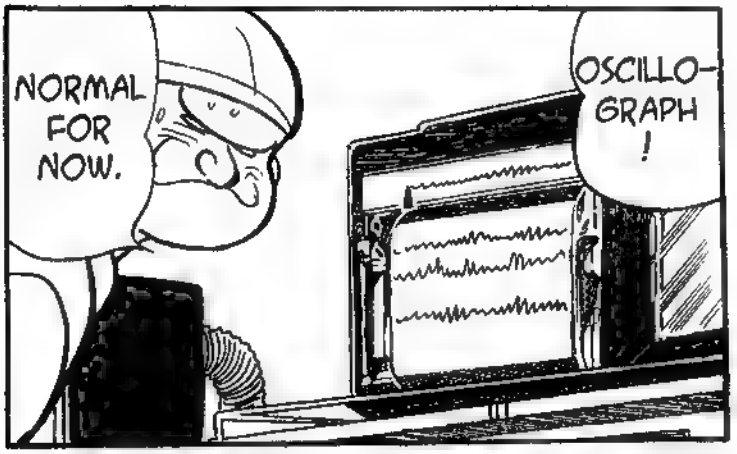
DOCTOR HONMA !!
I'LL PERFORM IT!
TAKE HIM TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATION!
WEEE
HOPELESS. SOFTENING AND BLEEDING OF THE BRAIN.

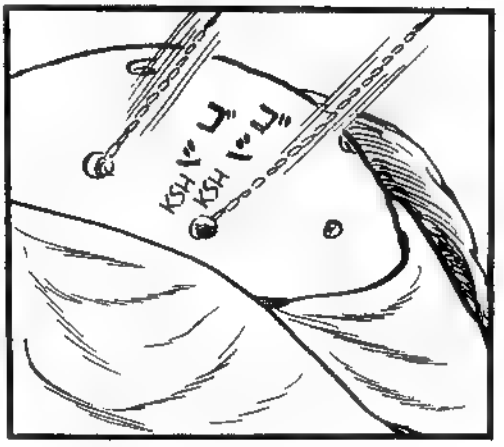

INTERNAL
ET CETERA
MEDICINE

TREPA-
NATION
!



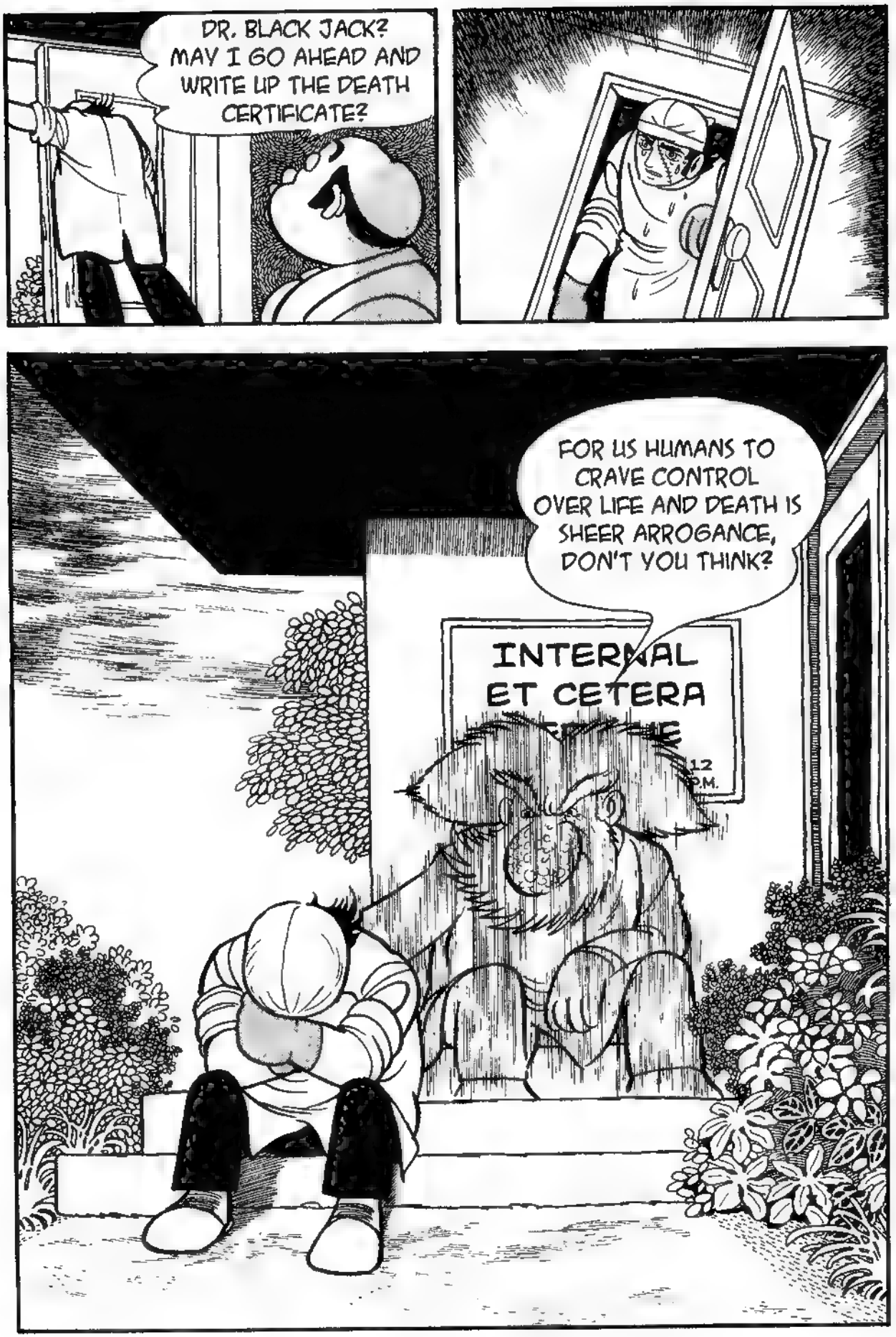
HERE AT A COUNTRY CLINIC? WHEN IT'S HARD EVEN AT A BIG TOKYO HOSPITAL?
THIS SURGERY IS FOR A CEREBRAL HEMOR-RHAGE.


NORMAL FOR NOW.
OSCILLO-GRAPH
!

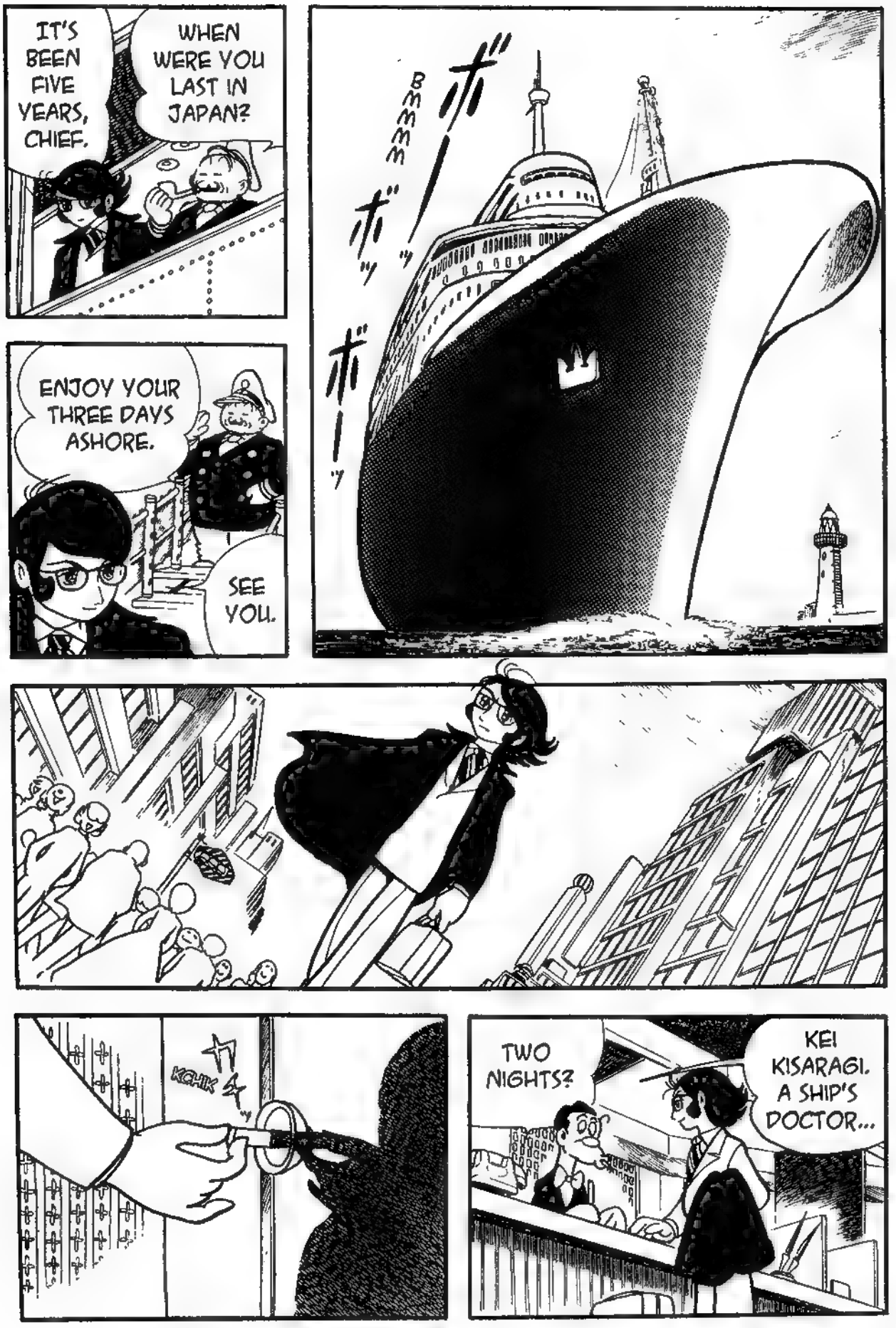

KSH
KSH

ボコッ
TAK
...
AMAZING...
HE'S THE FAMOUS "BLACK JACK" WHO CAN CURE ANYTHING.
THAT MAN DOESN'T HAVE A MEDICAL LICENSE.
ECG IRREGULAR.
SIGNAL'S GETTING WEAKER.
SPOON !

HEART MASSAGE! ABORT OP. PENICILLIN, SUTURE!
DR. BLACK JACK! WE'VE LOST HIS PULSE!
CARDIOTONIC !
HE'S DEAD ...
YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME. IT WAS HIS TIME.
IT WAS FUTILE, DOCTOR ...
HE'S DEAD ?!
HOW? I DID PERFECT. I MADE NO MISTAKES.


DR. BLACK JACK? MAY I GO AHEAD AND WRITE UP THE DEATH CERTIFICATE?
FOR US HUMANS TO CRAVE CONTROL OVER LIFE AND DEATH IS SHEER ARROGANCE, DON'T YOU THINK?
INTERNAL
ET CETERA

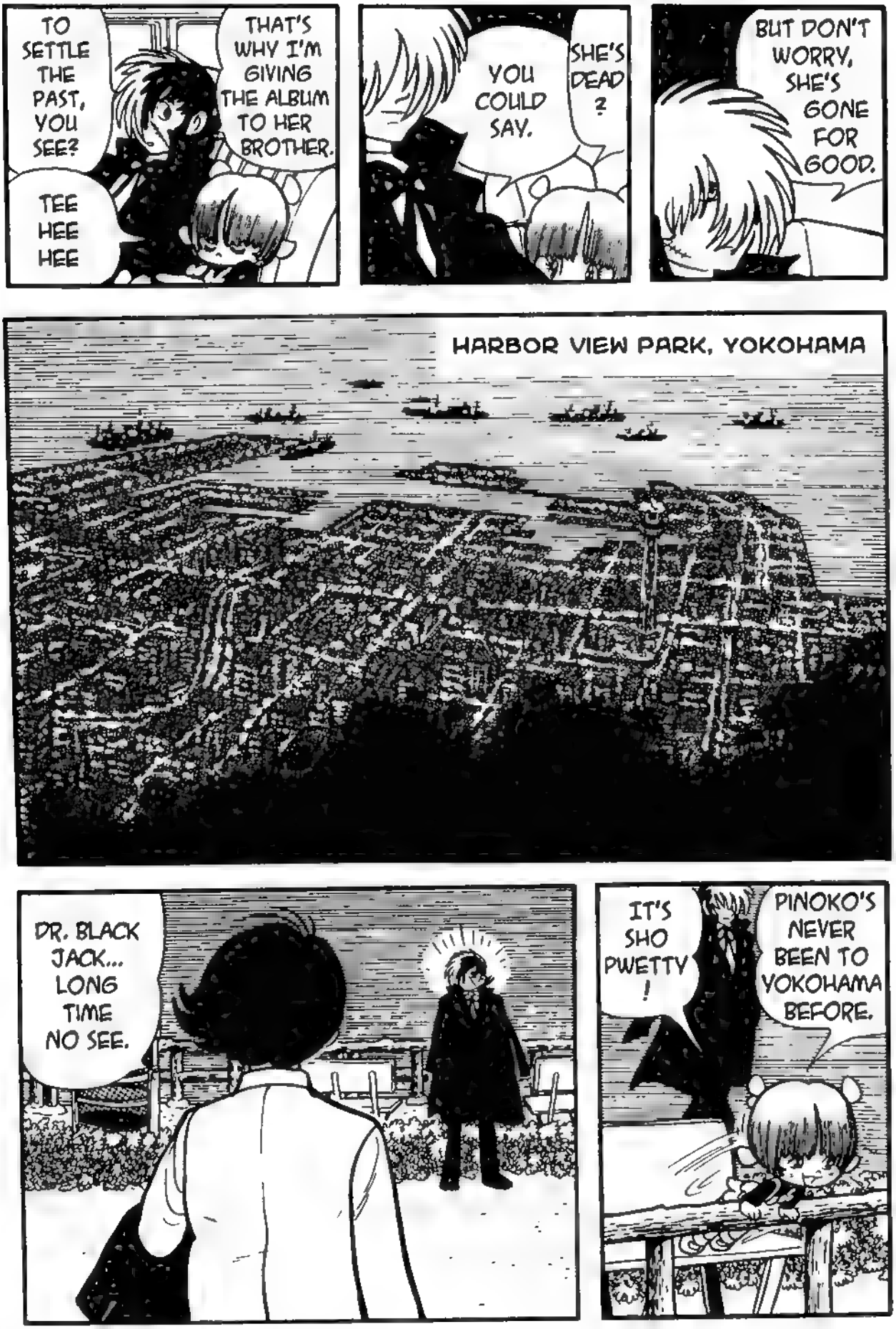
CONFLUENCE


IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS, CHIEF.
WHEN WERE YOU LAST IN JAPAN?
ENJOY YOUR THREE DAYS ASHORE.
SEE YOU.
KCHK
TWO NIGHTS?
KEI KISARAGI. A SHIP'S DOCTOR...

HELLO...
DOCTOR BLACK JACK ?
KISARAGI SPEAKING ...
YES. FROM A HOTEL IN YOKOHAMA ...
DOCTOR KISARAGI! WHEN DID YOU COME BACK ?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES... HOW ABOUT THE HARBOR VIEW PARK ?
A FWIEND ?
YES... IT'S BEEN YEARS... AN OLD FRIEND.

THERE'S AN ALBUM IN THAT CUPBOARD. GET IT FOR ME.
WHERE'S DOCTOR GOING?
YOKOHAMA, TO SEE HIM.
HUH, IT'S SHMALL.
WHAT'S WRONG? GIVE IT TO ME.
WHO'S THE LADY
SHTANDING NEXT TO YOU?
WHO SAID YOU MAY LOOK AT IT?
FLUSH!

IS HIS SHISHTER A WOMAN?
THE SISTER OF THE MAN I'M GOING TO SEE.
FINE, I'LL TELL YOU. SHE'S...
OF COURSE!
YOU WON'T TELL ME, I WON'T GIVE IT.
DON'T BE STUPID. IT'S NOTHING.
WELL, YOU GUESSED IT.
DON'T TELL ME THE DOCTOR HAD A SHWEETIE...
STAY HOME.
YOU'RE NOT COMING!
UH-UH! YOU HAVE TO TELL ME MORE.
ME!
WHAT, ARE YOU JEALOUS?
...
NO NEED TO GET SO WORKED UP.


TO SETTLE THE PAST, YOU SEE?
THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING THE ALBUM TO HER BROTHER.
TEE HEE HEE
YOU COULD SAY.
SHE'S DEAD?
BUT DON'T WORRY, SHE'S GONE FOR GOOD.
HARBOR VIEW PARK, YOKOHAMA
DR. BLACK JACK... LONG TIME NO SEE.
IT'S SHO PWETTY!
PINOKO'S NEVER BEEN TO YOKOHAMA BEFORE.

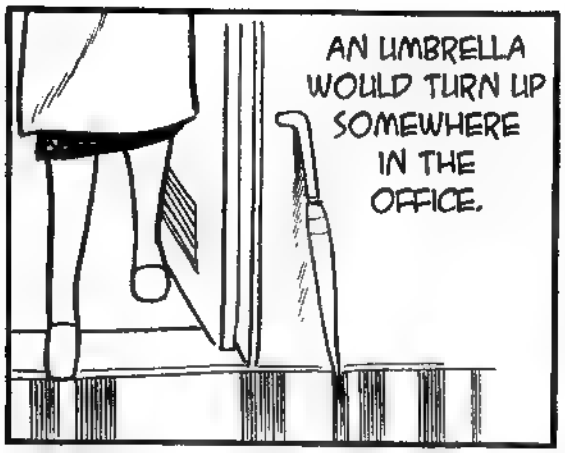
I SEE YOU'RE WELL.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
...
HELLO, I'M THE WIFE.
OH, RIGHT. THIS IS MY ASSISTANT, PINOKO.
INTWO-DUCE ME.
HE~Y! DON'T JUST SHTAND THERE,
PINOKO'S THE WIFE!
HOW INSHULT-ING...
SO, YOU GOT MARRIED ?
WHAT A CUTE DAUGH-TER!
PUFF
I WON'T BE LONG.
ALL RIGHT, I INTRODUCED YOU. NOW GO WAIT IN THE CAR.

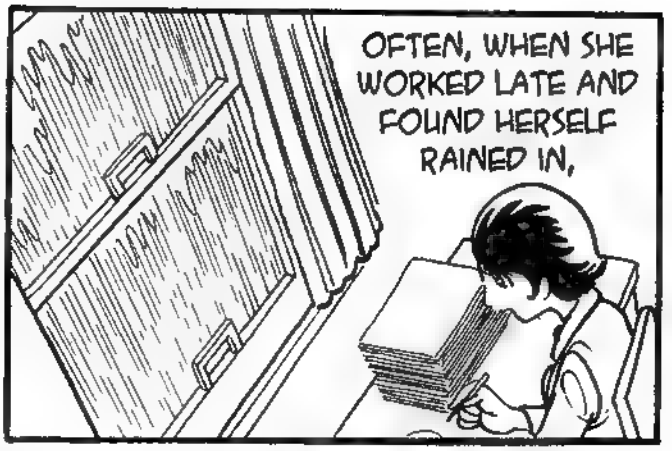
...
WHERE DID SHE GO?
WHERE ARE YOU?
PINOKO

MAYBE SHE WENT TO BUY A SODA.
SHUCKS! SHE PULLS THIS ON ME NOW AND THEN.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER. PLEASE WAIT HERE.
PINOKO!
TEE-HEE, WE NEED TO TALK. APOLOGIES TO THE DOCTOR.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
BOO!
OH YES, MY SISTER...
SISTER?
SO YOUR SHISHTER WAS THE DOCTOR'S SHWEETIE?
NO, NO... MUSHN'T GET UPSHET. CALM DOWN...
I'M NOT A LITTLE GIRL! PINOKO'S EIGHTEEN! A LADY!!
YOU'RE A BAD LITTLE GIRL!

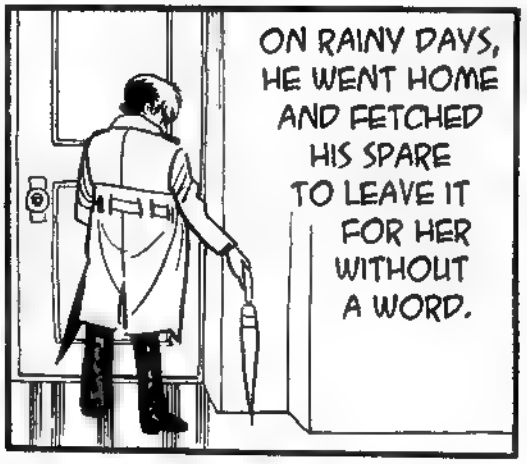
MY SISTER, MEGUMI, FELL HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
HOW WERE THEY LIKE? TELL ME...
HE WAS AHEAD OF MY SISTER AT THE SAME UNIVERSITY AND TRAINED IN THE SAME MEDICAL DEPARTMENT. AT FIRST, SHE WAS AFRAID OF HIM.
I BET IT WAS UNWEQUITED. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE DOCTOR FALLING IN LOVE.
DR. BLACK JACK AND MY SISTER WERE DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.
NO...!!

NOTE: A "MEDICAL DEPARTMENT" IN THE JAPANESE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SYSTEM IS HEADED BY A CHAIR AND INCLUDES PROFESSORS, MEDICAL STAFF AND GRADUATE STUDENTS IN DESCENDING ORDER OF RANK.


AN UMBRELLA WOULD TURN UP SOMEWHERE IN THE OFFICE.


OFTEN, WHEN SHE WORKED LATE AND FOUND HERSELF RAINED IN,

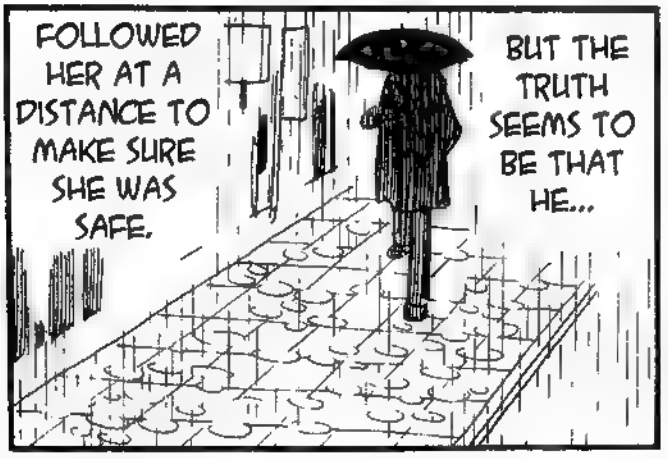
WHEN MY SISTER THANKED HIM AND INVITED HIM TO WALK HOME TOGETHER...


ON RAINY DAYS, HE WENT HOME AND FETCHED HIS SPARE TO LEAVE IT FOR HER WITHOUT A WORD.

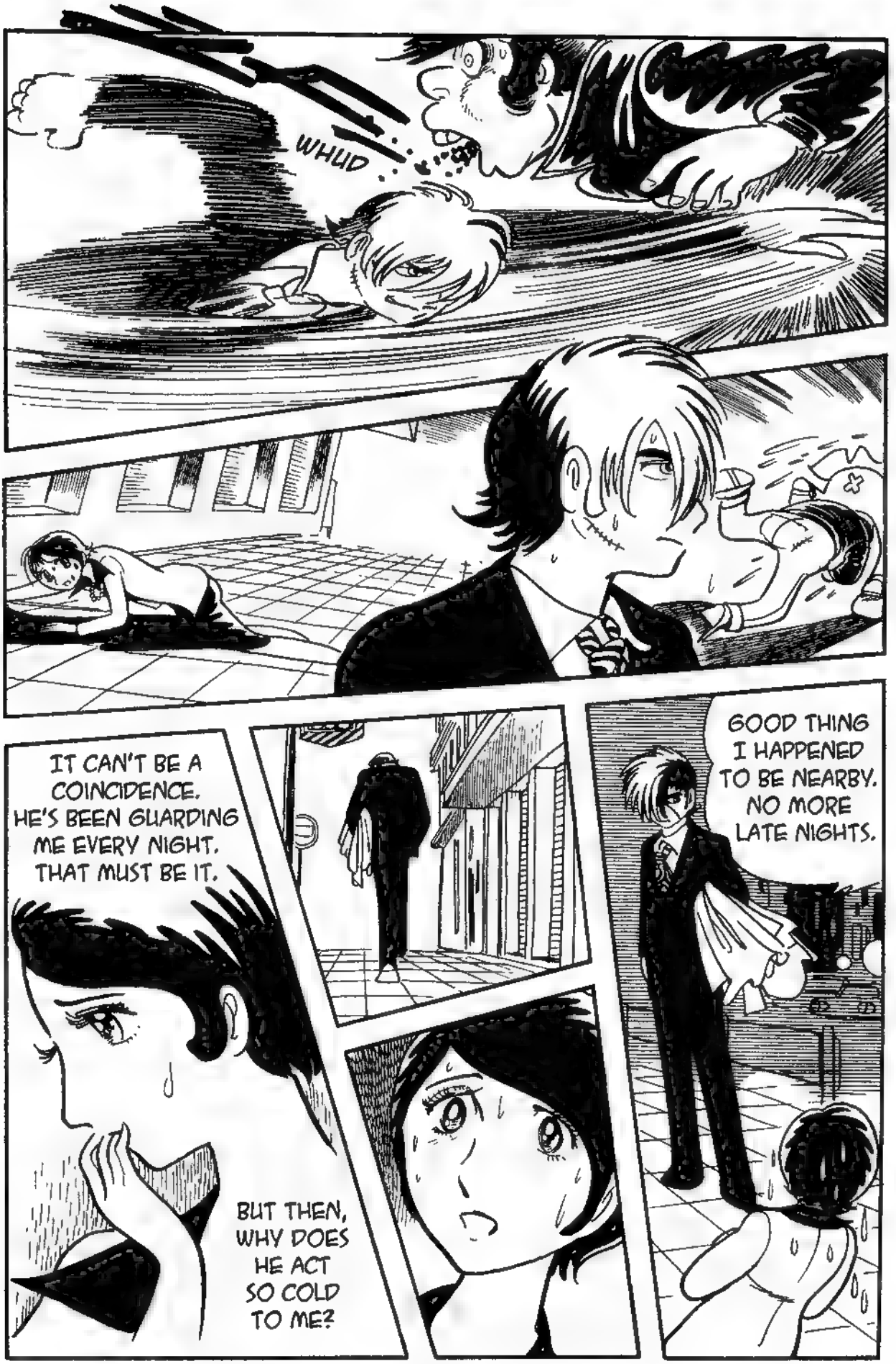
AFTER A WHILE, MY SISTER FIGURED OUT ITS OWNER.

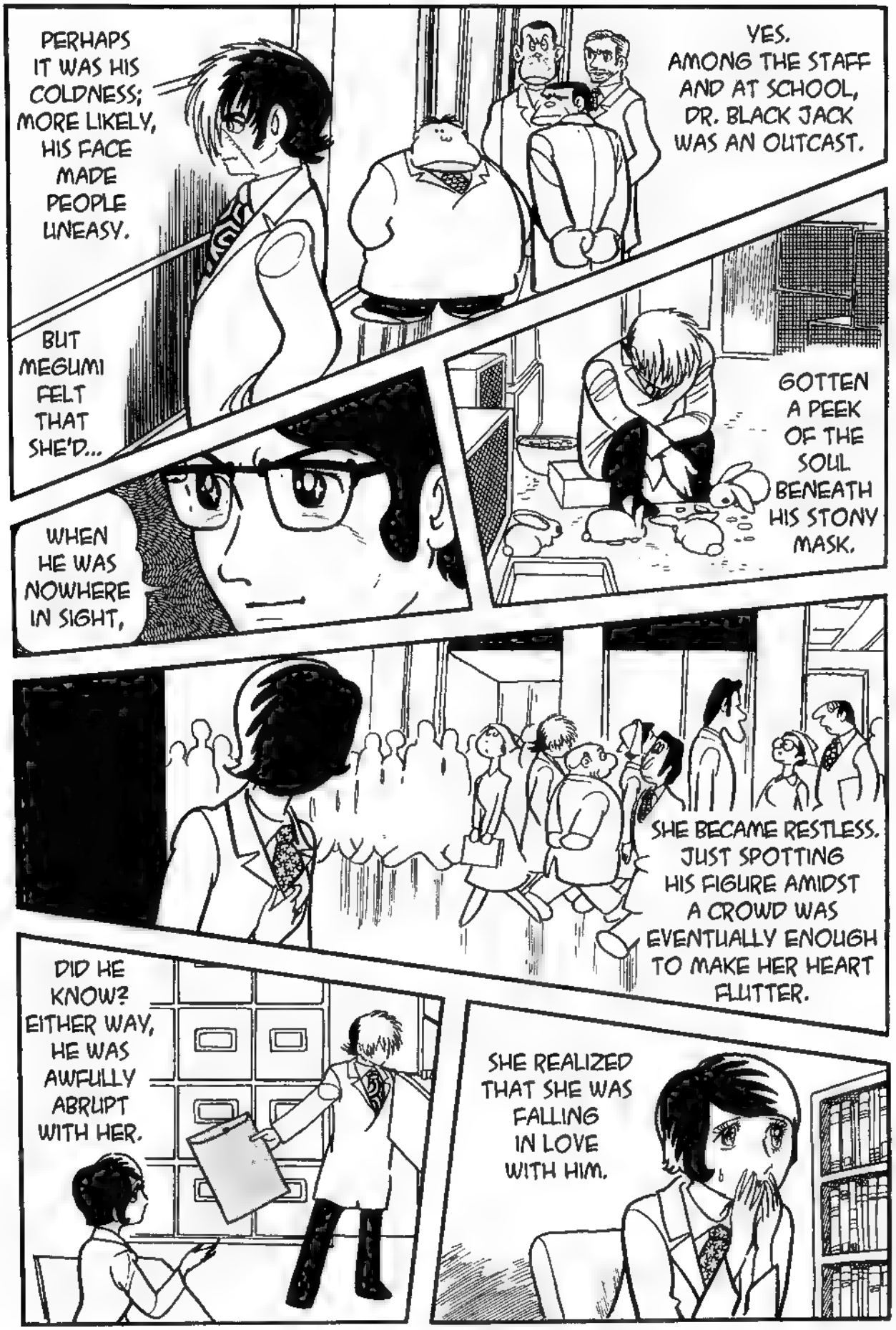
SHE'D ALWAYS HEAD HOME ALONE IN THE DARK,

WOMEN SHOULDN'T WORK SO LATE ...
HE BRUSQUELY REPLIED THAT HE HAD WORK TO DO AND WENT TO HIS DESK.

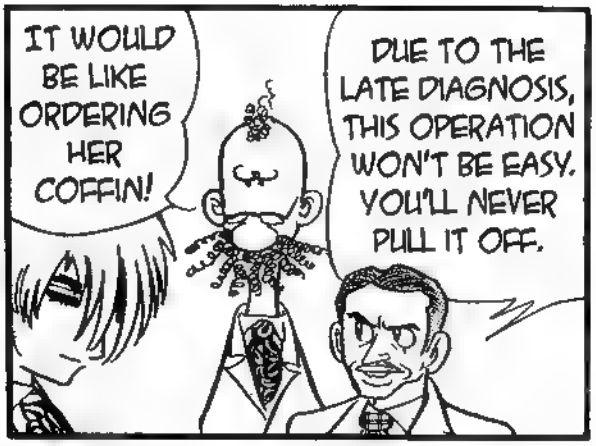

FOLLOWED HER AT A DISTANCE TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS SAFE.
BUT THE TRUTH SEEMS TO BE THAT HE...

THAT BECAME CLEAR WHEN, ONE NIGHT, SHE WAS ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF PUNKS.
GSSK
ナメルナ!!


WHUD
GOOD THING I HAPPENED TO BE NEARBY. NO MORE LATE NIGHTS.
IT CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE. HE'S BEEN GUARDING ME EVERY NIGHT. THAT MUST BE IT.
BUT THEN, WHY DOES HE ACT SO COLD TO ME?

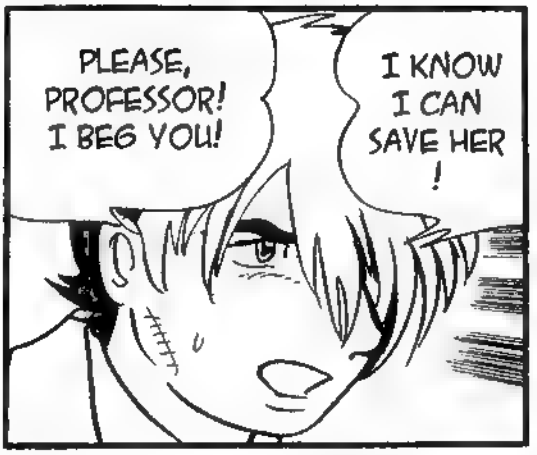

PERHAPS IT WAS HIS COLDNESS; MORE LIKELY, HIS FACE MADE PEOPLE UNEASY.
YES. AMONG THE STAFF AND AT SCHOOL, DR. BLACK JACK WAS AN OUTCAST.
BUT MEGUMI FELT THAT SHE'D...
GOTTEN A PEEK OF THE SOUL BENEATH HIS STONY MASK.
WHEN HE WAS NOWHERE IN SIGHT,
SHE BECAME RESTLESS. JUST SPOTTING HIS FIGURE AMIDST A CROWD WAS EVENTUALLY ENOUGH TO MAKE HER HEART FLUTTER.
DID HE KNOW? EITHER WAY, HE WAS AWFULLY ABRUPT WITH HER.
SHE REALIZED THAT SHE WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM.

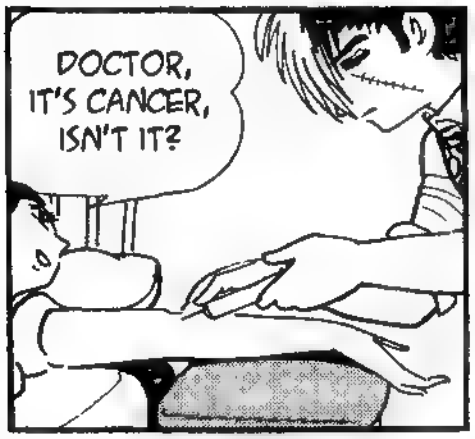
NOT AT ALL.
BUT YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THIS SORT OF TALK...
WADE TOO DEEP INTO LOVE AND THERE'S NO END TO IT.
A HORRIBLE FATE AWAITED HER.
SHE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE. BESIDES ...
WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL HIM HOW SHE FELT?
THE MOST COMMON TYPE AMONG WOMEN, WITH A HIGH MORTALITY RATE.
SHE GOT CANCER. UTERINE CANCER!
PROF ...
IT MAY BE TOO LATE.
POOR KISARAGI ...


IT WOULD BE LIKE ORDERING HER COFFIN!
DUE TO THE LATE DIAGNOSIS, THIS OPERATION WON'T BE EASY. YOU'LL NEVER PULL IT OFF.

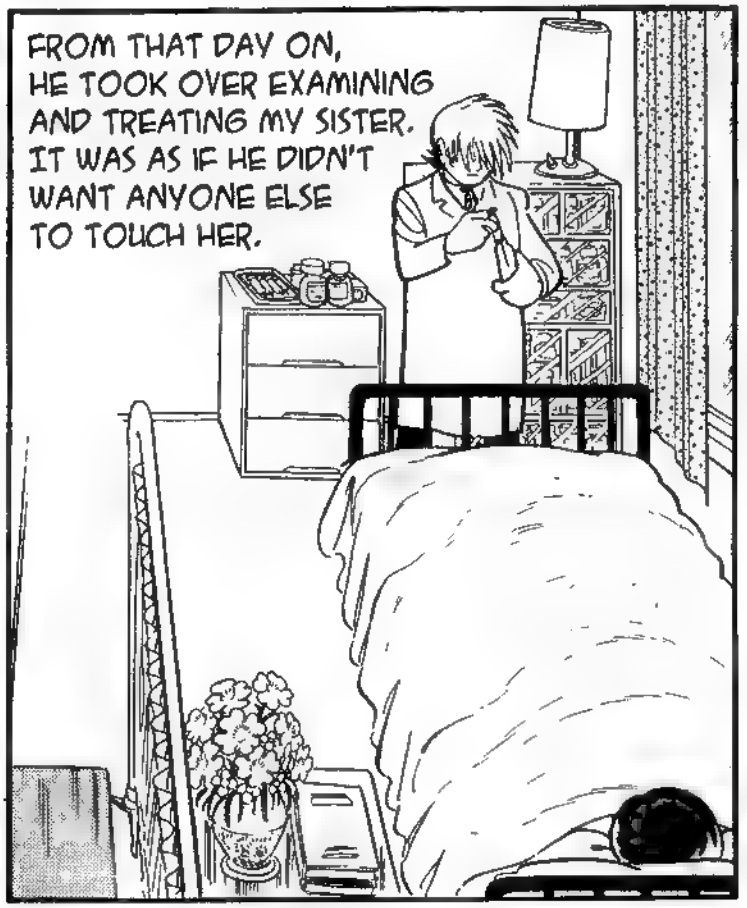
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL JUST MEDICAL STAFF.
PLEASE LET ME PERFORM THE OPERATION!

YOU HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?
NO. I'LL DO IT ALONE.
ALL RIGHT, BUT PROFESSOR MURAKAMI WILL ATTEND.


PLEASE, PROFESSOR! I BEG YOU!
I KNOW I CAN SAVE HER!

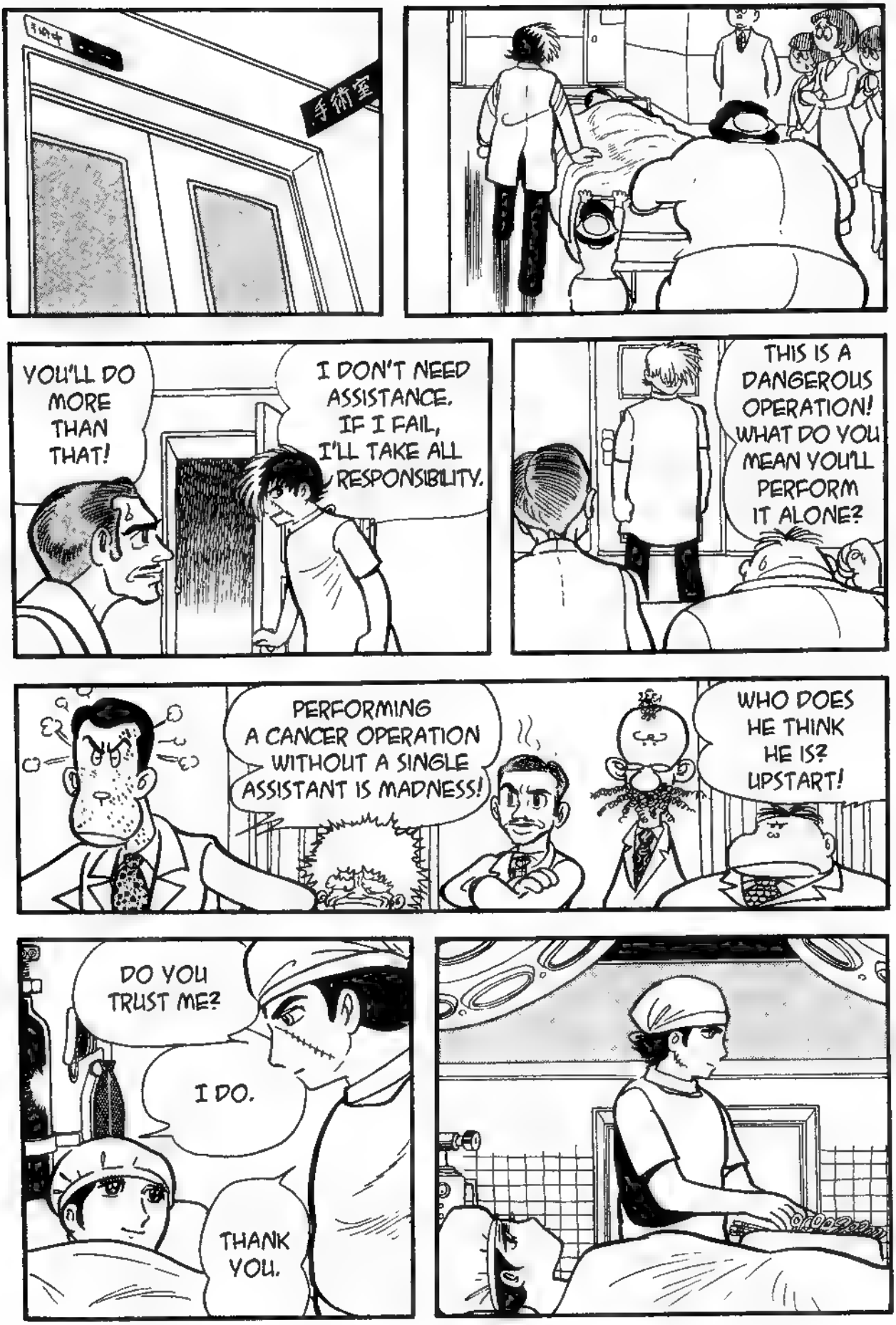

DOCTOR, IT'S CANCER, ISN'T IT?

IS IT VERY BAD?
YES. IT IS.
VERY. WE'RE OPERATING TOMORROW.


FROM THAT DAY ON, HE TOOK OVER EXAMINING AND TREATING MY SISTER. IT WAS AS IF HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO TOUCH HER.

...
IT'S LIKE A DEATH SENTENCE. FOR MY SISTER'S SAKE, THOUGH, HE GAVE IT TO HER STRAIGHT. THAT ACTUALLY MADE HER TRUST HIM.
TELLING PATIENTS THAT THEY HAVE CANCER IS CRUEL.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR FEMALE ORGANS, ENTIRELY.
I'LL BE REMOVING YOUR UTERUS, AND YOUR OVARIES—
STILL WANT TO GO AHEAD?
AS YOU KNOW, THE UTERUS AND OVARIES SECRETE CRUCIAL HORMONES THAT DEFINE A WOMAN'S SEX. TO HAVE THEM REMOVED IS TO QUIT BEING A WOMAN. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN, OF COURSE, AND YOU'LL BECOME UNFEMININE.
uterus (baby room)
ovary (egg room)
fallopian tube (egg entrance)
IN EXCHANGE, I PROMISE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

NOTE: INFORMED CONSENT WAS VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT IN JAPAN ESPECIALLY WITH CANCER. THE TRUTH WAS USUALLY CONCEALED FROM THE PATIENT BUT SHARED WITH THE CLOSEST FAMILY MEMBER.

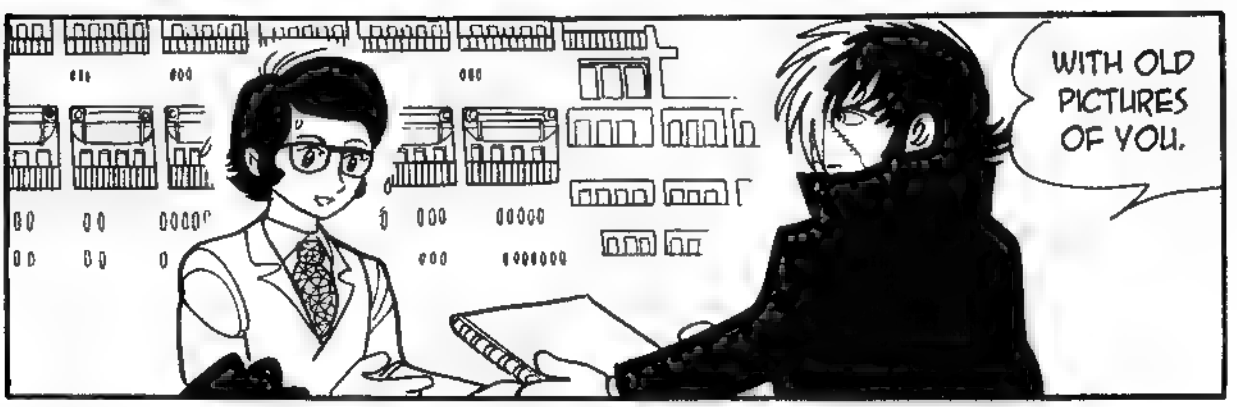

手術室
YOU'LL DO MORE THAN THAT!
I DON'T NEED ASSISTANCE. IF I FAIL, I'LL TAKE ALL RESPONSIBILITY.
THIS IS A DANGEROUS OPERATION! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'LL PERFORM IT ALONE?
PERFORMING A CANCER OPERATION WITHOUT A SINGLE ASSISTANT IS MADNESS!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? UPSTART!
DO YOU TRUST ME?
I DO.
THANK YOU.

MEGUMI. I LOVE YOU. WITH ALL MY HEART!
I'LL SAY THIS WHILE YOU'RE STILL A WOMAN.
KISS ME, DOCTOR !
I JUST COULDN'T ...
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER SAY IT... I'M SO GLAD!
WHEN THE SURGERY'S OVER, THIS FEELING MUST BE GONE, TOO...
AND THAT'S ALL...
IS ETERNAL !
NO. THIS MOMENT ...

I HAVE TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP.
...
IT WAS A SUCCESS.
HER UTERUS AND OVARIES REMOVED, MEGUMI SLEPT QUIETLY, THE OPERATION FINISHED IN AN HOUR.
SHE WAS NO LONGER A WOMAN.
AND THEN ?
ピノコ
PINOKO

WE'RE GOING HOME!
DON'T JUST GO WANDERING OFF! GET IN THE CAR.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
AWW, I WANT TO HEAR THE WEST...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS...
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.
THE OPEWATION WAS A SHUCCESS, WIGHT ?
DOCTOR... ABOUT HIS SHISHTER...
THANKS TO YOU, I BARELY GOT TO TALK TO HIM.
YOU'RE A HANDFUL, YOU KNOW THAT?
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT? "SIGH"
POOR FING, SHE WAS NO LONGER A LADY. THEN WHAT?

KRAW
ギャア
ギャア
ニャア
ニャア
KREE

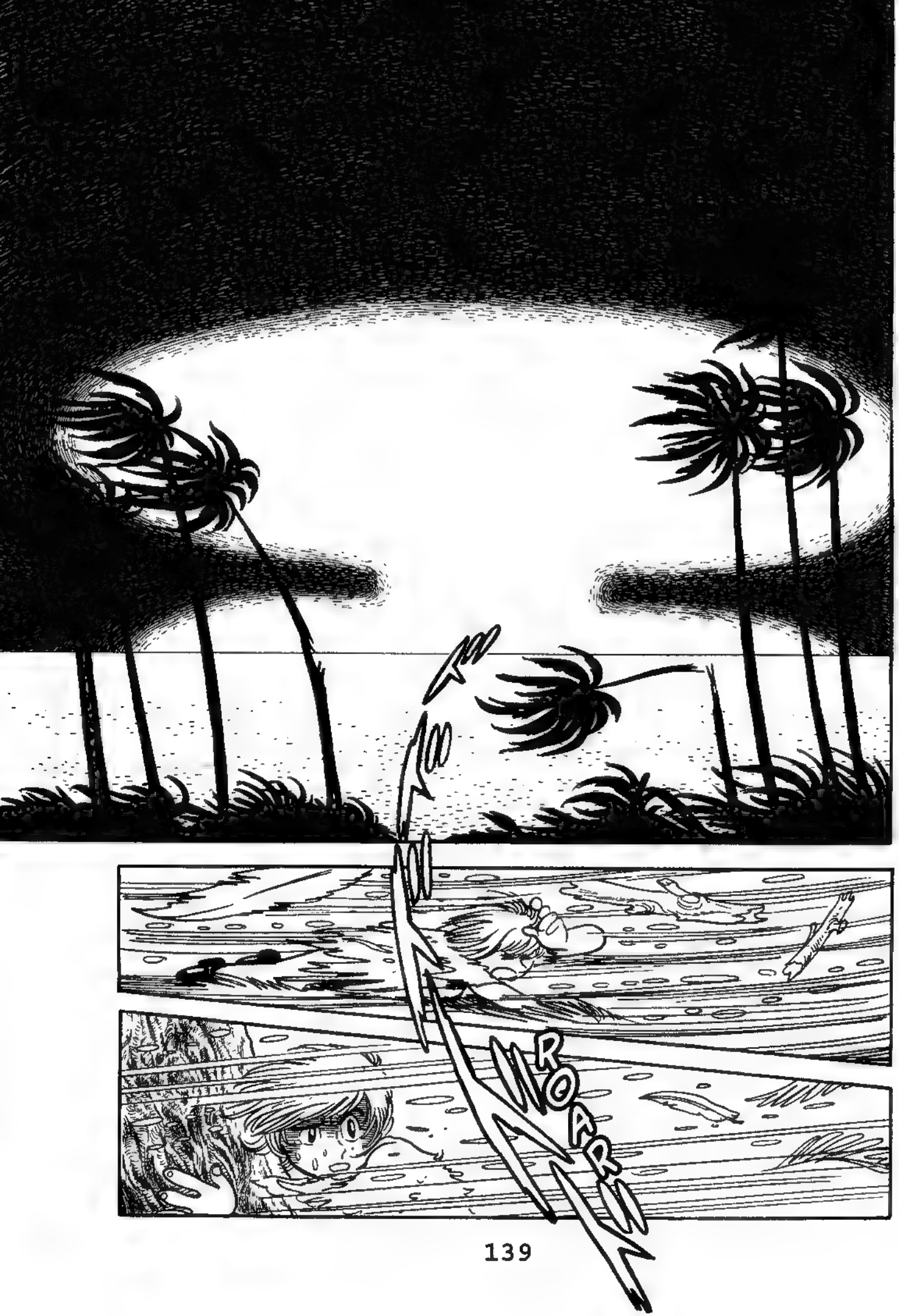


NOTE: KISARAGI'S FIRST NAME, "KEI," AND "MEGUMI" ARE ALTERNATE READINGS OF THE SAME CHINESE CHARACTER.

FAREWELL... DOCTOR BLACK JACK...
HELPS YOU FORGET THE PAST, AM I RIGHT?
ボオニオオオ
BMMMM
BMMMM

THE PAINTING IS DEAD!

CHIRP
TWITTER
OOPS, THAT'S NOT GOOD TO EAT.
NOW, NOW. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CRAP ON MY CANVAS, ARE YOU? HA HA HA...
THE LAST PEACEFUL HAVEN ON OUR PLANET, IS HERE.
FLASH!!


ROAR!!

BARF
SHLIK

JAPAN—
CAT'S CAPE SANATORIUM
MR. GO GAN, YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
NICE TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
SUDDENLY, A NUCLEAR TEST WAS CONDUCTED NEARBY.
I'M AN ARTIST. ON A TINY SOUTHERN ISLAND, I WAS PAINTING...

NOTE: "GO GAN" ALLUDES TO PAUL GAUGUIN, WHOSE WANDERINGS TOOK HIM TO POLYNESIA.

I'M SURE THE GOVERNMENT OF NATION K DID ISSUE AN EVACUATION WARNING TO ALL PERSONS IN THE VICINITY...
THE TEST WAS PERFORMED BY NATION K, WHICH RECENTLY DEVELOPED NUKES.
BUT I WAS STAYING IN THE ISLAND'S INTERIOR AND DIDN'T GET WORD.
THEY BROUGHT ME TO JAPAN FOR TREATMENT,
BUT I KNOW I DON'T HAVE LONG.
I WITNESSED IT WITH MY OWN EYES! THE ISLAND ANNIHILATED, AWASH IN BLOOD, A HELL ON EARTH!
THE BLAST CAUGHT ME HEAD ON.

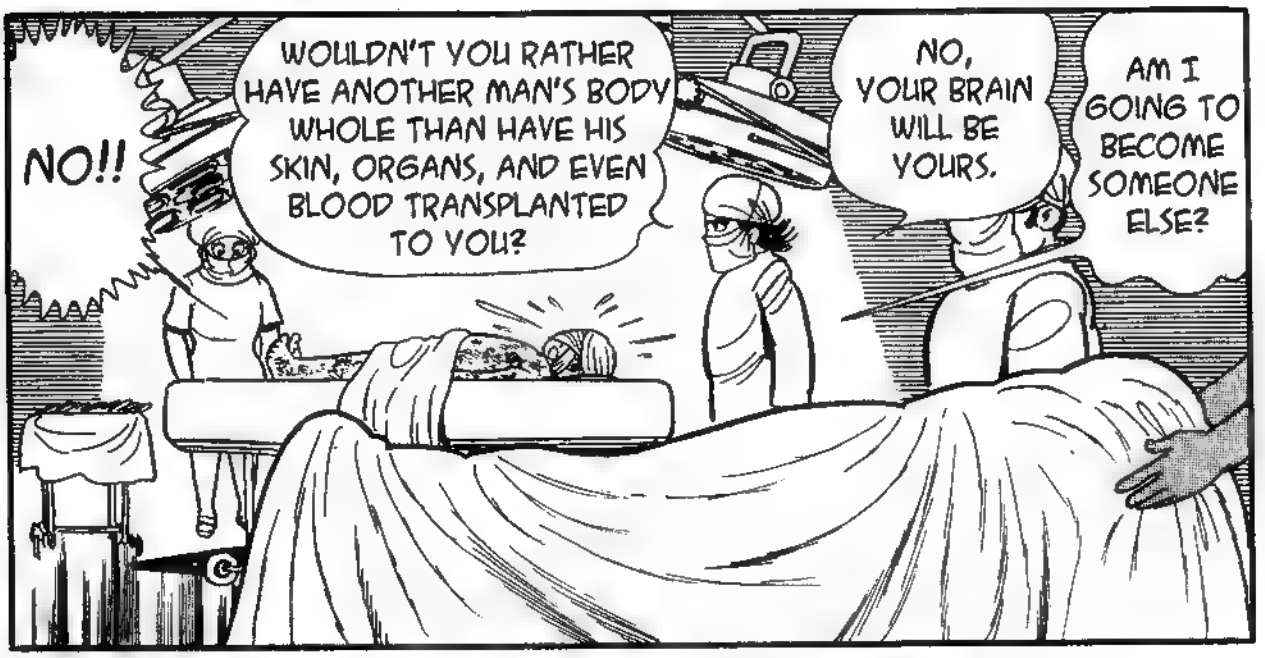
BUT BEFORE I DO, I WANT TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT THE CRUELTY OF THAT BLAST.
YES, I'M GOING TO DIE.
I WANT TO CAPTURE THAT HELLISH SCENE IN A PAINTING FOR POSTERITY.
I'M NOT GIFTED WITH WORDS, BUT I CAN PAINT.
THAT WAS WHEN I CAME ACROSS YOUR NAME.
YOU'VE SAVED THREE PATIENTS WITH RADIATION SICKNESS. I READ ABOUT IT IN CHAMPION.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CURE ME.
I JUST WANT YOU TO KEEP ME ALIVE...
UNTIL I FINISH ONE LAST PAINTING.
NO, HALF A YEAR WILL DO.
A YEAR!

NOTE: *BLACK JACK* WAS SERIALIZED IN THE WEEKLY COMICS MAGAZINE *SHONEN CHAMPION*.

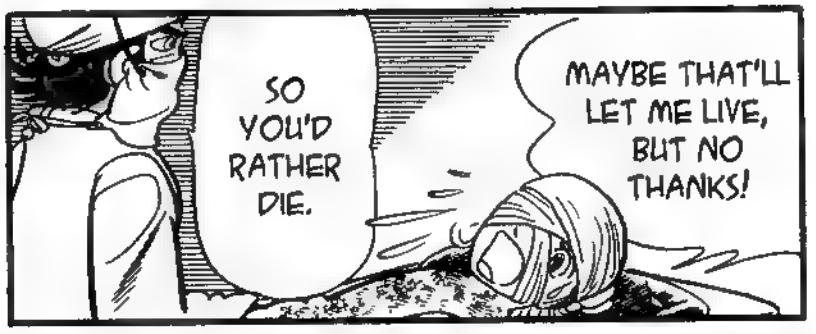
YOU HAVE TWO WEEKS AT MOST.
IF I MAY BE FRANK WITH YOU...
YOU MUST BE KIDDING.
HALF A YEAR?
...
THAT'S RIGHT. IN FACT, IT'S A WONDER YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
TWO WEEKS?! I CAN'T EVEN GET STARTED ...
SEVENTY MILLION YEN!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HOW MUCH?
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE LONGER ...
WE NEED TO STRIP OFF YOUR SKIN, REPLACE YOUR ORGANS, AND GO FROM THERE.
I'LL PAY!! HAPPY?!
IF YOU CAN'T PAY, FORGET IT.
WAIT !!

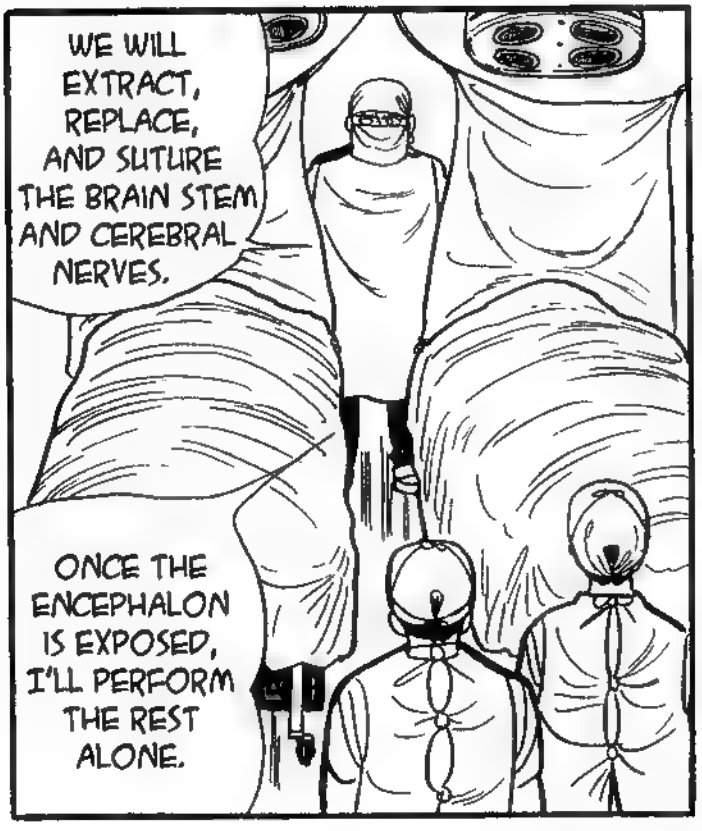
TAKE MY WORK WHEN IT'S DONE!
SELL IT FOR SEVENTY MILLION YEN!
YOU CAN SELL IT!
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR SKIN.
BLOOD TRANS-FUSION ...
AGH...
KELOIDS FROM HEAD TO TOE, ULCERS AND CANCER... WHAT A MESS.

MY HANDS... BEGIN WITH MY HANDS!
YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS ARE PROBABLY SHOT TO HELL, TOO. I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...
I WANT TO PAINT AS SOON AS I CAN.
WE NEED TO SWAP YOUR BODY.
?
THERE'S ONLY ONE OPTION, MR. GO GAN.
I SAY
LUCKILY, SOMEBODY JUST DIED OF HEART FAILURE.
WHAT?!
WE'LL RETAIN YOUR BRAIN AND HEART AND PROCURE THE REST FROM ANOTHER PERSON.


NO!!
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE ANOTHER MAN'S BODY WHOLE THAN HAVE HIS SKIN, ORGANS, AND EVEN BLOOD TRANSPLANTED TO YOU?
NO, YOUR BRAIN WILL BE YOURS.
AM I GOING TO BECOME SOMEONE ELSE?

...NO.

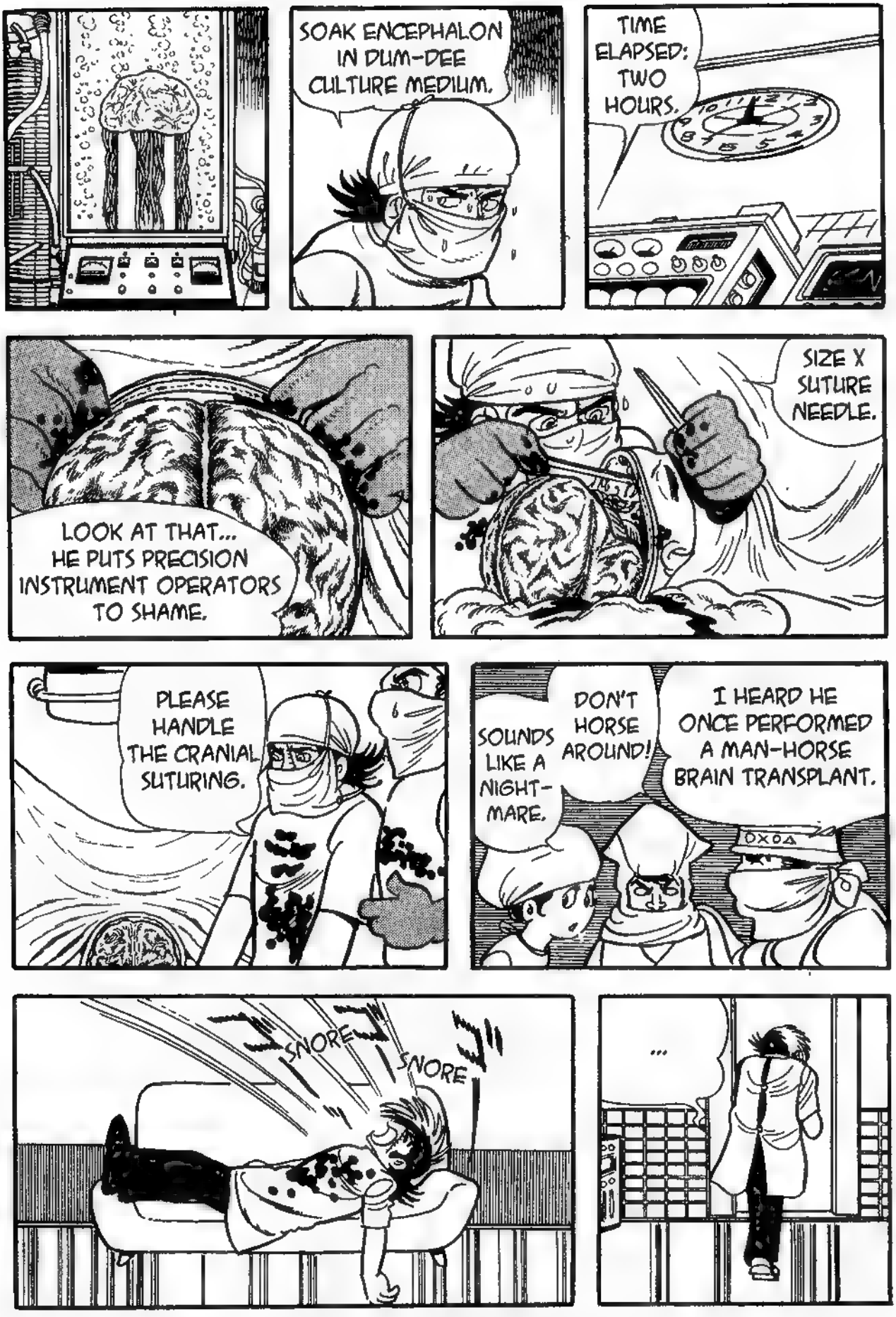

SO YOU'D RATHER DIE.
MAYBE THAT'LL LET ME LIVE, BUT NO THANKS!


WE WILL EXTRACT, REPLACE, AND SUTURE THE BRAIN STEM AND CEREBRAL NERVES.
ONCE THE ENCEPHALON IS EXPOSED, I'LL PERFORM THE REST ALONE.

...

LOWER BODY TEMPERA-TURE TO 20°C.

TREPANATION!
REPLACE BLOOD WITH PLASMA SUBSTITUTE.
A BRAIN TRANSPLANT! HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
A TALL ORDER...
BAGHDAD
HE'S REMOVED IT ALL RIGHT... HOW'LL HE EVER CONNECT IT TO ANOTHER BODY'S NERVES?


SOAK ENCEPHALON IN DUM-DEE CULTURE MEDIUM.
TIME ELAPSED: TWO HOURS.
LOOK AT THAT... HE PUTS PRECISION INSTRUMENT OPERATORS TO SHAME.
SIZE X SUTURE NEEDLE.
PLEASE HANDLE THE CRANIAL SUTURING.
SOUNDS LIKE A NIGHT-MARE.
DON'T HORSE AROUND!
I HEARD HE ONCE PERFORMED A MAN-HORSE BRAIN TRANSPLANT.
SNORE
SNORE
...

NOTE: THE FICTIONAL "DUM-DEE CULTURE MEDIUM" REFERS TO AN EPISODE ("THE TWO JANS") THAT WAS EXCLUDED FROM THE JAPANESE EDITION ON WHICH THIS COLLECTION IS BASED. THE STORY HAS BEEN APPENDED TO THE SPECIAL HARDCOVER EDITION.

A FEW MONTHS LATER...
SOON
GO GAN, REVIVED IN A NEW BODY,
GOT TO WORK.
THAT WAS A MAJOR RISK...
AND THE BODY DIDN'T REJECT THEM.
DOCTOR, I'M IMPRESSED— TRANSPLANTING THAT PATIENT'S BRAIN AND HEART INTO ANOTHER BODY, REVIVING HIM.

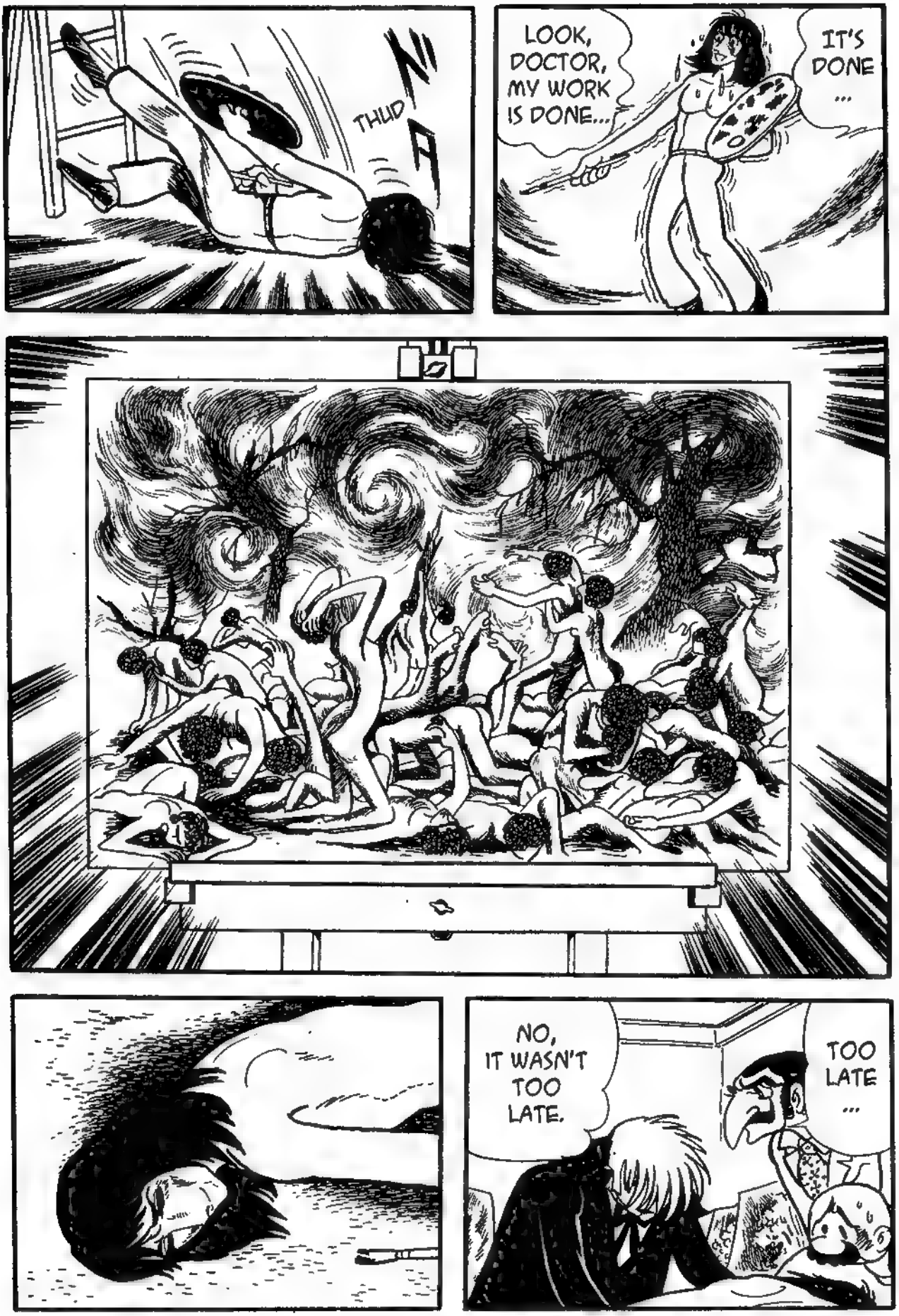
THE OPERATION WILL HAVE BEEN USELESS.
...IS STILL LIKELY TO COME TO PASS.
WHAT I FEAR
BUT NOT WHAT WORRIES ME.
YOU THINK SO?
I SEE WHY YOU WANTED THIS AS YOUR LEGACY.
IT'S A STUNNING PAINTING.
I CAN ALMOST HEAR THEIR MOANS.
IT HARDLY DOES JUSTICE TO THE... REALITY.

THIS PAINTING IS A FAILURE!!
IT'S DEAD!
I'VE LOST THAT IMAGE OF HELL.
I CAN'T DO IT!
IT'S NO USE!
I QUIT!
I COULD PRODUCE A LIVING PAINTING, THE REAL THING!
DOCTOR, IF I WERE DYING OF RADIATION SICKNESS...
THEN BE MY GUEST AND TAKE IT AWAY!
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH...
AS MY PAY-MENT.
IT ISN'T WORTH A RED CENT!

THUS, HIS PAINTING 99% COMPLETE, GO GAN ABRUPTLY TOSSED HIS BRUSHES ASIDE.
MORE THAN A YEAR PASSED.
RRRRRING!
IT'S THE PAINTER. HE'S TAKEN ILL.
WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY? AFTER-EFFECTS?
HE FELL INTO A COMA LAST NIGHT.
I KNEW IT... JUST AS I FEARED.

THE BRAIN!
SIGNS OF BRAIN SOFTEN-ING, TOO.
OUR BRAIN X-RAY SHOWS TUMORS IN MORE THAN 10 SPOTS.
LUNGE
DOCTOR...
IT'S... RADIATION SICKNESS, ISN'T IT?
HELLO... DOCTOR...
OUCH! DAMN IT!
UGH... UH...
NO NEED TO SPELL IT OUT. IT'S AFFECTING MY BRAIN, THE ONE PART I HAVE LEFT.
HE'S COME OUT OF THE COMA.

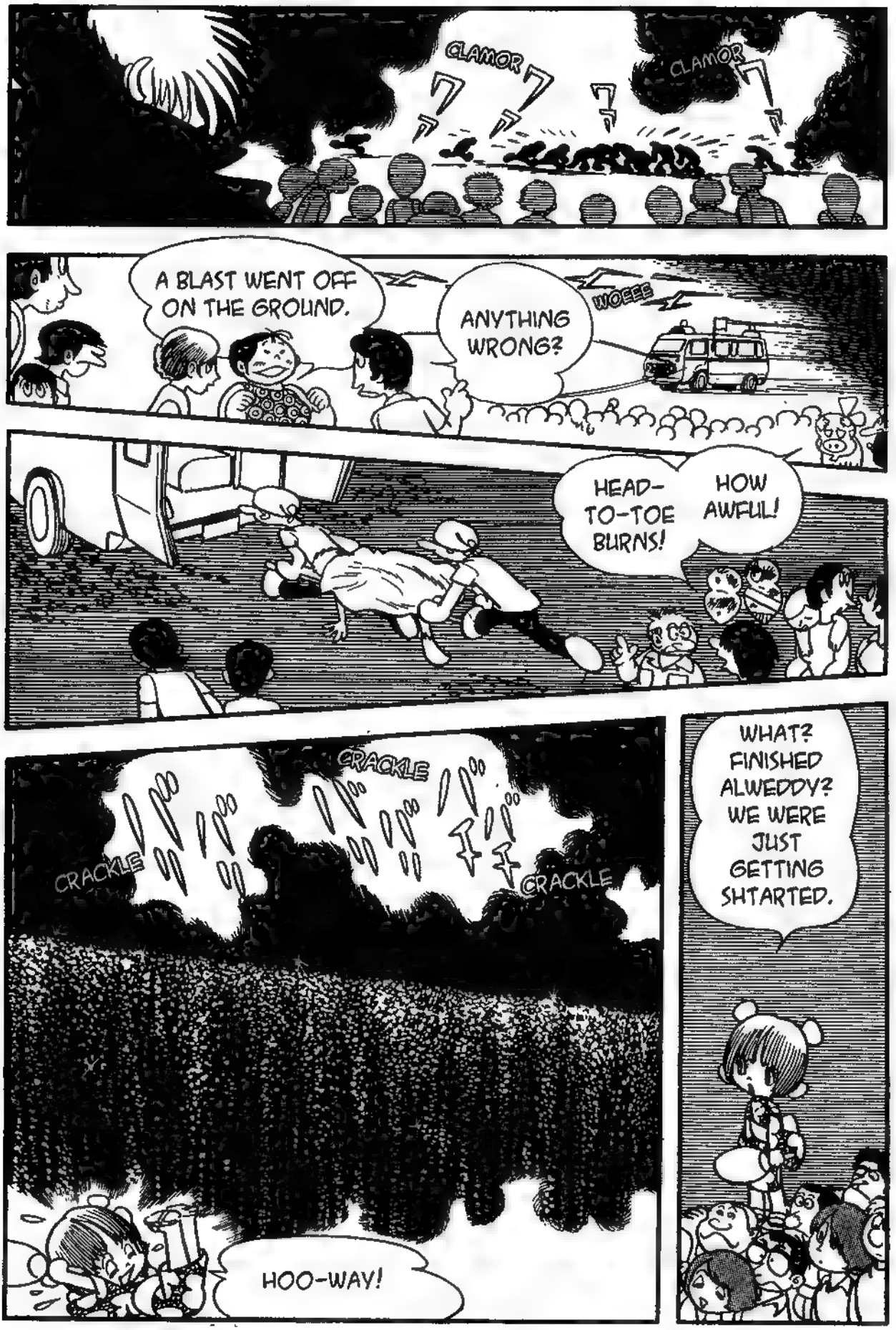
SELL IT? NO WAY. I STILL OWN IT.
DOCTOR, THAT PAINTING... H-HAVE YOU ALREADY SOLD IT?
TH-THIS IS MY BRAIN. I'LL USE IT TILL I DIE.
D-DON'T TELL ME YOU'LL REPLACE MY BRAIN THIS TIME?
URR... NGG... DAMN IT! UNNGH... HOW'S THAT!
I-I'D LIKE TO... NOW...
I NEVER FINISHED IT.
YES. NOW'S THE TIME.
NOW?
COME ON, GO GAN! PAINT!
SLUMP


THUD
LOOK, DOCTOR, MY WORK IS DONE...
IT'S DONE ...
NO, IT WASN'T TOO LATE.
TOO LATE ...

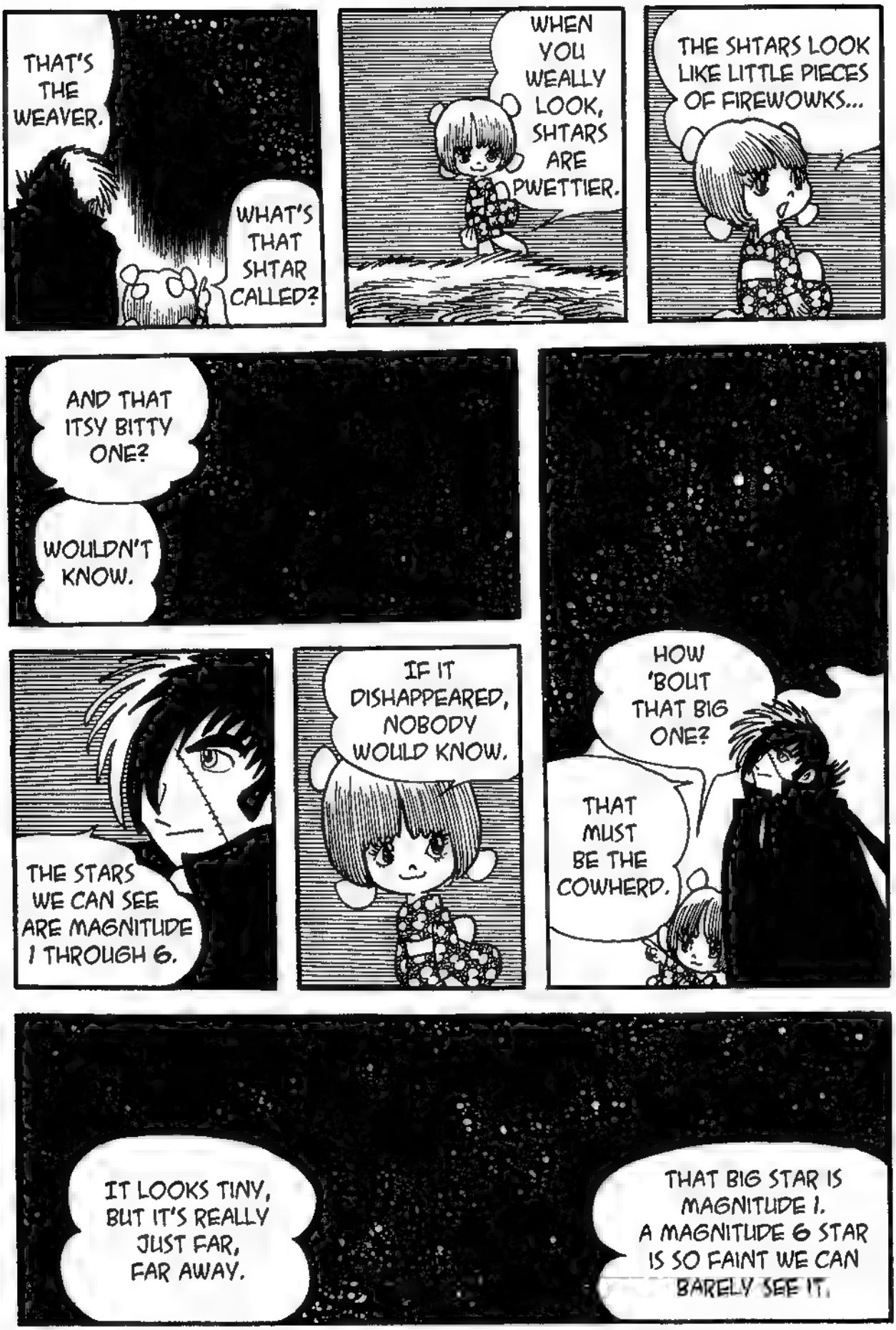
STAR, MAGNITUDE SIX

BAM
BAM
POP
POP
WHEE, IT'S SHO PWETTY!
SHO PWETTY.
BAM
FSHH
BAM
BAM

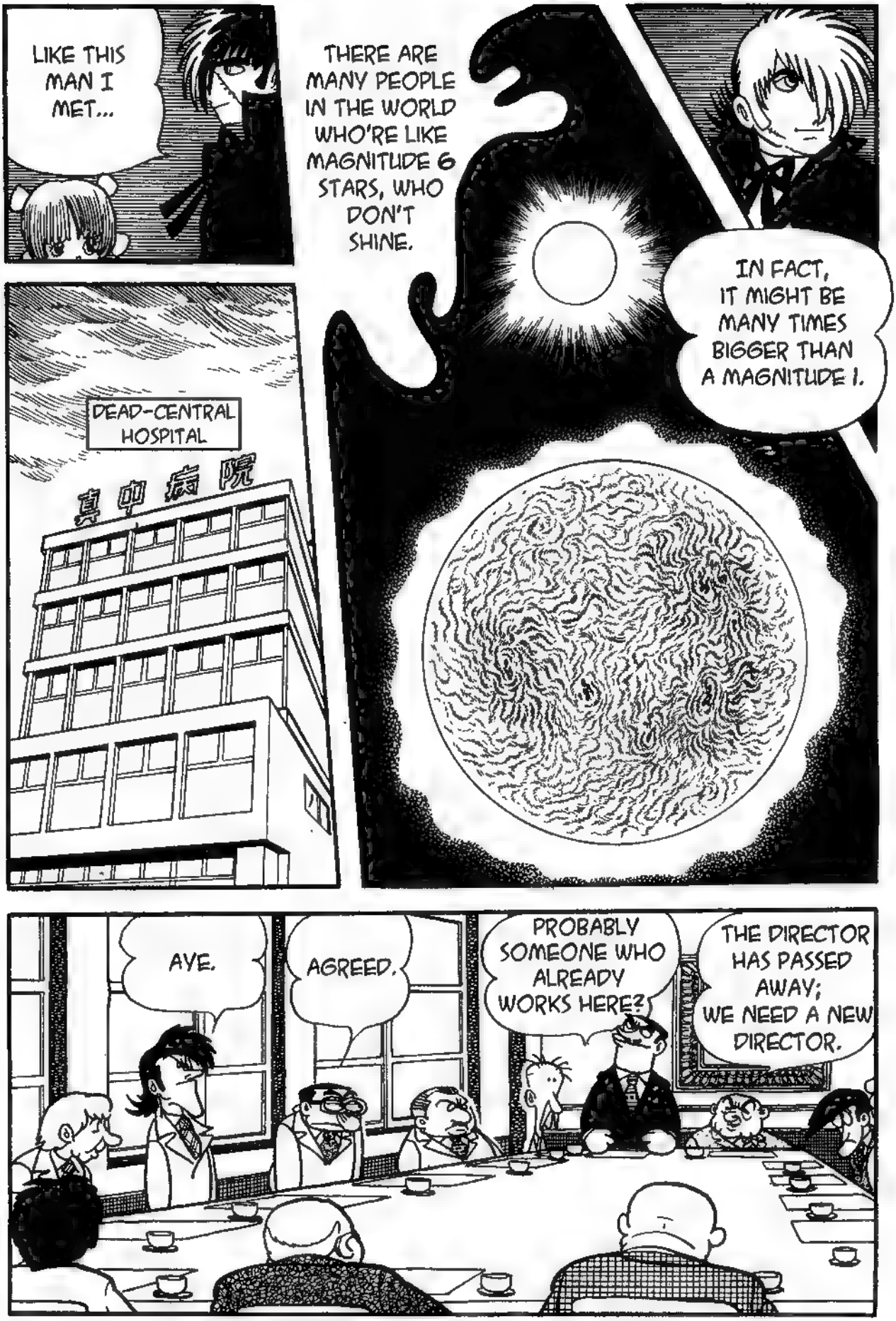
B-B-BAM
BAM
YIPPEE! I'M GOING TO WET MYSHELF!
THREE-FOOT CHRYSAN-THEMUM BLAST MEDLEY!
BOM
BOM
KABOOM!
TWITCH
UH, I DID.
CLAMOR
CLAMOR


CLAMOR
CLAMOR
A BLAST WENT OFF ON THE GROUND.
ANYTHING WRONG?
WOEEE
HEAD-TO-TOE BURNS!
HOW AWFUL!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
HOO-WAY!
WHAT? FINISHED ALWEDDY? WE WERE JUST GETTING SHTARTED.

...
TOO NUMB TO STAND?
OVER-EXCITED? YOU SILLY THING.
IT'S OVER. LET'S GO HOME.
I HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT...
UM...
WHAT IS IT?
A LITTLE ONE.
HUH?
WITH THE FIREWOWKS OVER, IT'S SHUDDENLY SHO QUIET.
PANTIES PLEASE.
HURRY UP AND CHANGE.


THAT'S THE WEAVER.
WHAT'S THAT SHTAR CALLED?
WHEN YOU WEALLY LOOK, SHTARS ARE PWETTIER.
THE SHTARS LOOK LIKE LITTLE PIECES OF FIREWOWKS...
AND THAT ITSY BITTY ONE?
WOULDN'T KNOW.
HOW 'BOUT THAT BIG ONE?
THAT MUST BE THE COWHERD.
THE STARS WE CAN SEE ARE MAGNITUDE 1 THROUGH 6.
IF IT DISHAPPEARED, NOBODY WOULD KNOW.
IT LOOKS TINY, BUT IT'S REALLY JUST FAR, FAR AWAY.
THAT BIG STAR IS MAGNITUDE 1. A MAGNITUDE 6 STAR IS SO FAINT WE CAN BARELY SEE IT.

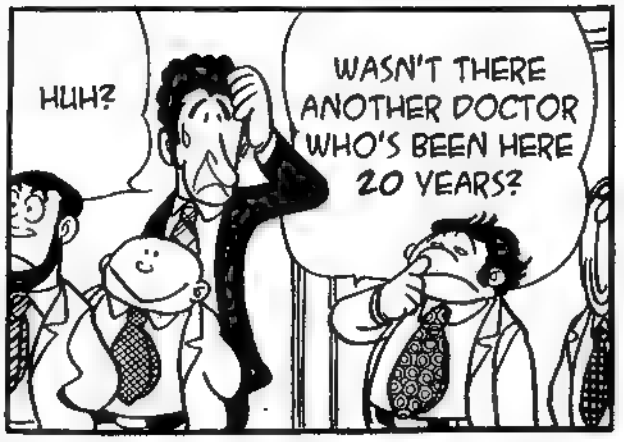
NOTE: ACCORDING TO ASIAN LEGEND, THE WEAVER AND THE COWHERD ARE LOVERS WHO MEET JUST ONCE A YEAR ON JULY 7TH.


LIKE THIS MAN I MET...
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO'RE LIKE MAGNITUDE 6 STARS, WHO DON'T SHINE.
IN FACT, IT MIGHT BE MANY TIMES BIGGER THAN A MAGNITUDE 1.
DEAD-CENTRAL HOSPITAL
真中病院
AYE.
AGREED.
PROBABLY SOMEONE WHO ALREADY WORKS HERE?
THE DIRECTOR HAS PASSED AWAY; WE NEED A NEW DIRECTOR.

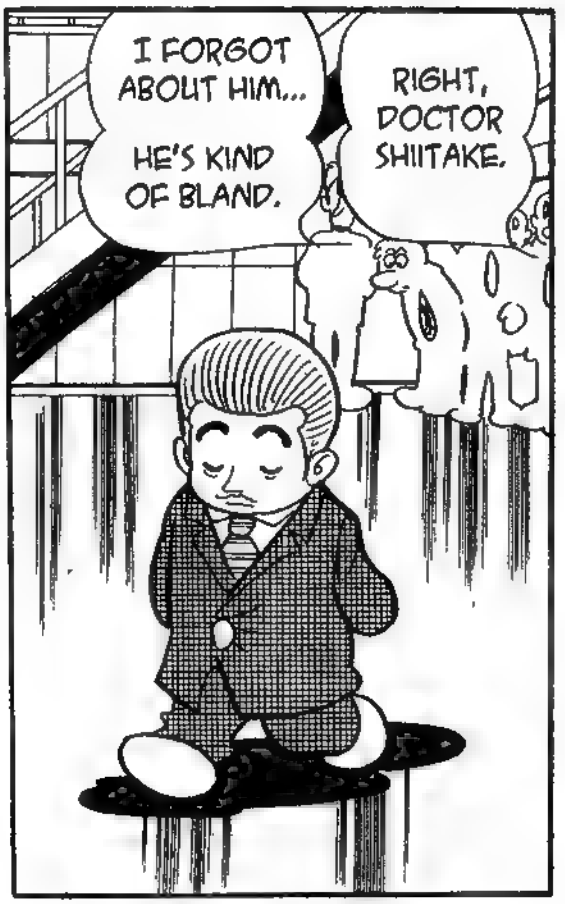
THAT'S RIGHT! I'D LIKE TO MAKE A NOMINATION...
THIS HOSPITAL EMPLOYS MANY EXCELLENT DOCTORS.
IN TERMS OF SENIORITY, DR. SHIBATA HAS ALSO WORKED HERE FOR 20 YEARS.
OBJECTION!
DR. TOKUGAWA! A SENIOR DOCTOR WHO'S WORKED HERE 20 YEARS!
HE'S A HOUSEHOLD NAME.
YES, BUT DR. SHIBATA DISCUSSES HEALTH ISSUES ON TELEVISION.
HAS EVERY QUALITY A DIRECTOR NEEDS. CHARACTER, ESTEEM...
Y-YES, BUT DR. TOKU-GAWA
MEN REALLY TRUST DR. SHIBATA.
FEMALE PATIENTS ADORE DOCTOR TOKUGAWA.
NOW, NOW.
DR. SHIBATA IS SKILLED IN ACCOUNTING, TOO!
DR. TOKUGAWA'S BOOK HOW TO POOP IS A BESTSELLER.

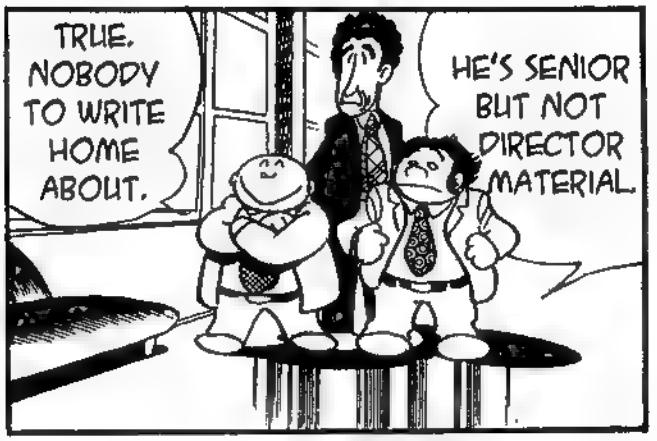
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
LET'S TAKE VOTES AT OUR NEXT MEETING.
HOW'S THIS ...

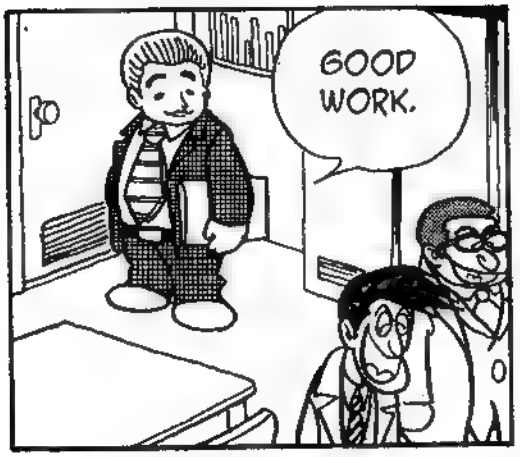
YES.
HIM.

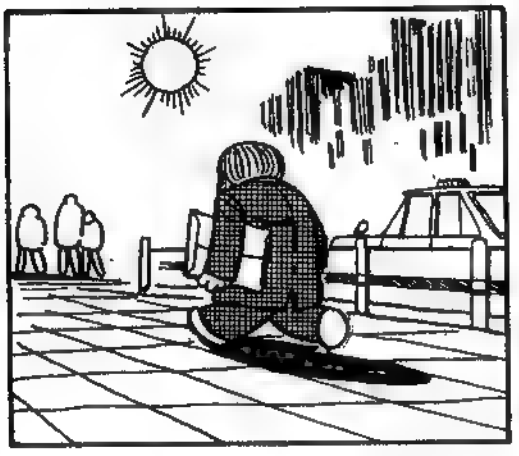

HUH?
WASN'T THERE ANOTHER DOCTOR WHO'S BEEN HERE 20 YEARS?

YOU CAN BARELY TELL IF HE'S AROUND.
EVEN THE NURSES HARDLY NOTICE HIM.

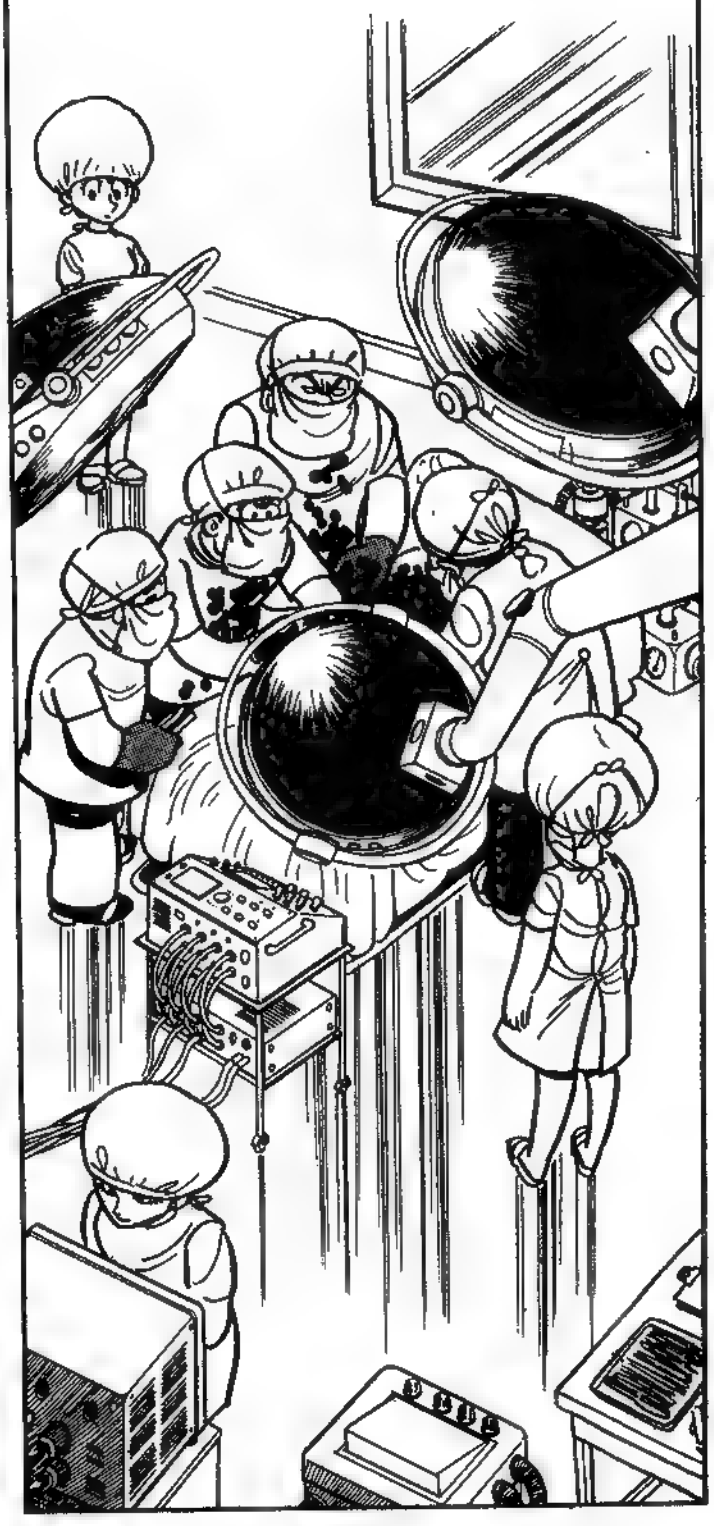

I FORGOT ABOUT HIM...
HE'S KIND OF BLAND.
RIGHT, DOCTOR SHIITAKE.


TRUE. NOBODY TO WRITE HOME ABOUT.
HE'S SENIOR BUT NOT DIRECTOR MATERIAL.





DR. SHIITAKE BLENDED RIGHT INTO THE WALLPAPER. WHEN DR. TOKUGAWA OR DR. SHIBATA WIELDED THE SCALPEL, HE ALWAYS STOOD ON THE SIDELINES AND ASSISTED. HE EVEN CAME TO BE REGARDED AS A NUISANCE.



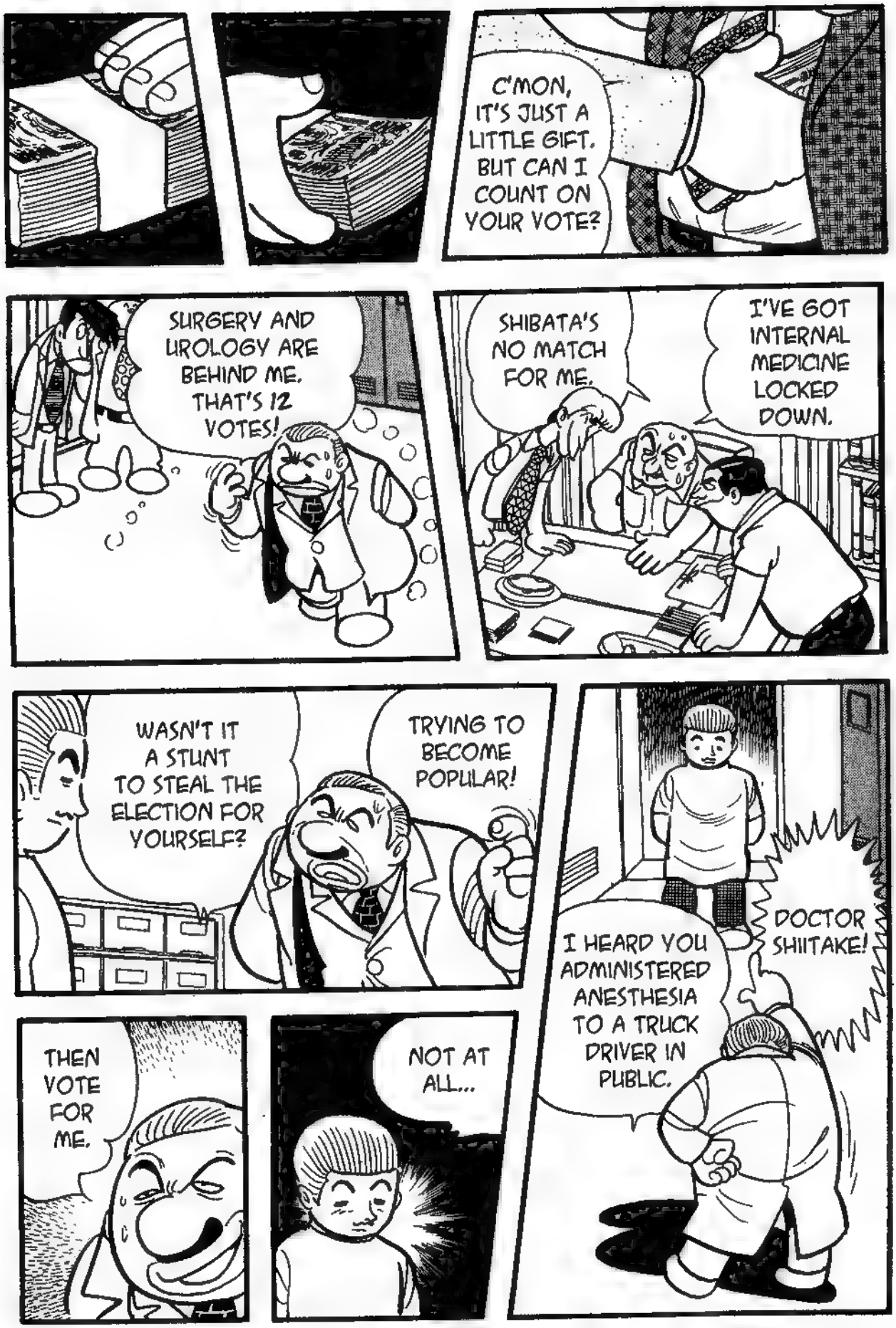
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
KRASH
AAGH
HE CAN'T GET OUT!
A TRUCK LOADED WITH STEEL CRASHED!
THE DRIVER'S PINNED INSIDE!
BUB
HIB
THEY'LL NEED A CRANE.
OH, HELP HIM!!
AAGH! OWW...
WOEEE
WOEEE
HIS RIGHT ARM'S TOTALLY CRUSHED.
AAGH
AHHH

DO YOU HAVE ANY XYLO-CAINE?
YES, WE DO.
HE'S IN PAIN. UNLESS IT'S MITIGATED, HE'LL GO INTO SHOCK.
WE'LL NEED A CRANE.
HOW IS HE?
HE'S PINNED INSIDE.
RIP
TURN YOUR HEAD TO THE LEFT. I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF PAIN.
PRICK
THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAIN, AT LEAST.
AIEE!
JERK

D-DOCTOR, WON'T YOU STAY A BIT LONGER?
NO, THE REST SHOULD BE LEFT TO A HOSPITAL.
I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
HIS ARM NEEDS TO BE SEVERED AT THE BRACHIUM.
WHEN THE CRANE IS DONE, GIVE HIM A TRANS-FUSION.
I'LL BE ON MY WAY, NOW...
WAIT! JUST A MINUTE!
DOCTOR...
ARE YOU THE CHIEF PHYSI-CIAN?
DEAD-CENTRAL HOSPITAL? I HEARD THE DIRECTOR JUST PASSED AWAY.
DEAD CENTRAL.
WHICH HOSPITAL DO YOU WORK AT?
IF I MAY ASK...

IT TOOK YOU JUST 3 SECONDS. AN ANES-THETIC SHOT TO THE UPPER ARM NERVE PLEXUS.
BUT I SAW YOU GIVE THAT SHOT.
REALLY ?
ME? NO. I'M JUST A STAFF DOCTOR.
IT'S A BIG HOSPITAL, WITH MANY LUMINARIES.
UNDER OTHERS?!
WITH YOUR SKILLS?!
BUT I'VE ONLY WORKED UNDER OTHERS.
THANK YOU.
THAT'S NO MEAN FEAT EVEN FOR A VETERAN DOCTOR.
I'M HOME.
...
WHY DON'T YOU SEEK A HIGHER POST?
DOCTOR, YOU'RE A TRUE MASTER!
TODAY'S MEETING WAS ABOUT THE DIRECTOR'S SEAT.
DOCTORS CAN'T LET AMBITION GET THE BEST OF THEM.

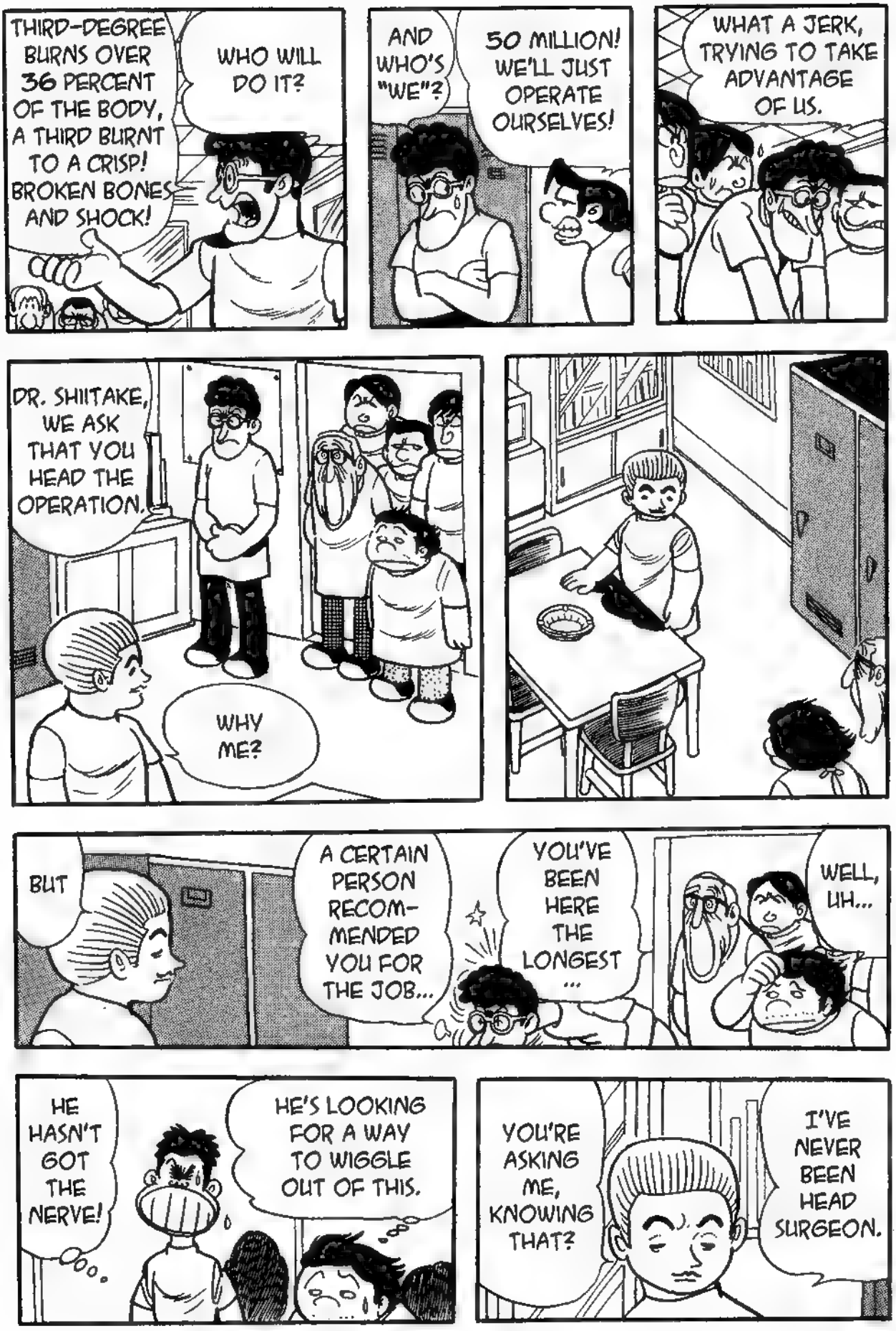
NO SURPRISE THERE.
HA HA HA... AS USUAL, NOBODY TOOK ANY NOTICE OF ME.
BUT YOU'RE SENIOR STAFF, TOO.
LOOKS TO BE BETWEEN SHIBATA AND TOKUGAWA.
STILL, IT'S A SHAME ...
OH WELL, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT.
MY STATION SUITS ME JUST FINE.
TO EACH HIS OWN...
YOU JUST SEEM TO LACK ANY SORT OF DRIVE.
OF POOP AND STOOL
ウンコとトイレの関係
MY NEW BOOK— PLEASE READ IT.
SO DOCTOR, I HEARD YOU'LL BE MADE DIRECTOR?
健康本
HA HA... IT'S NOT DECIDED YET.
PLEASE, VOTE FOR ME! HERE'S A SMALL TOKEN OF MY SINCERITY.
VOTE FOR ME!! ONCE I'M DIRECTOR...
I WILL RETURN THE FAVOR.

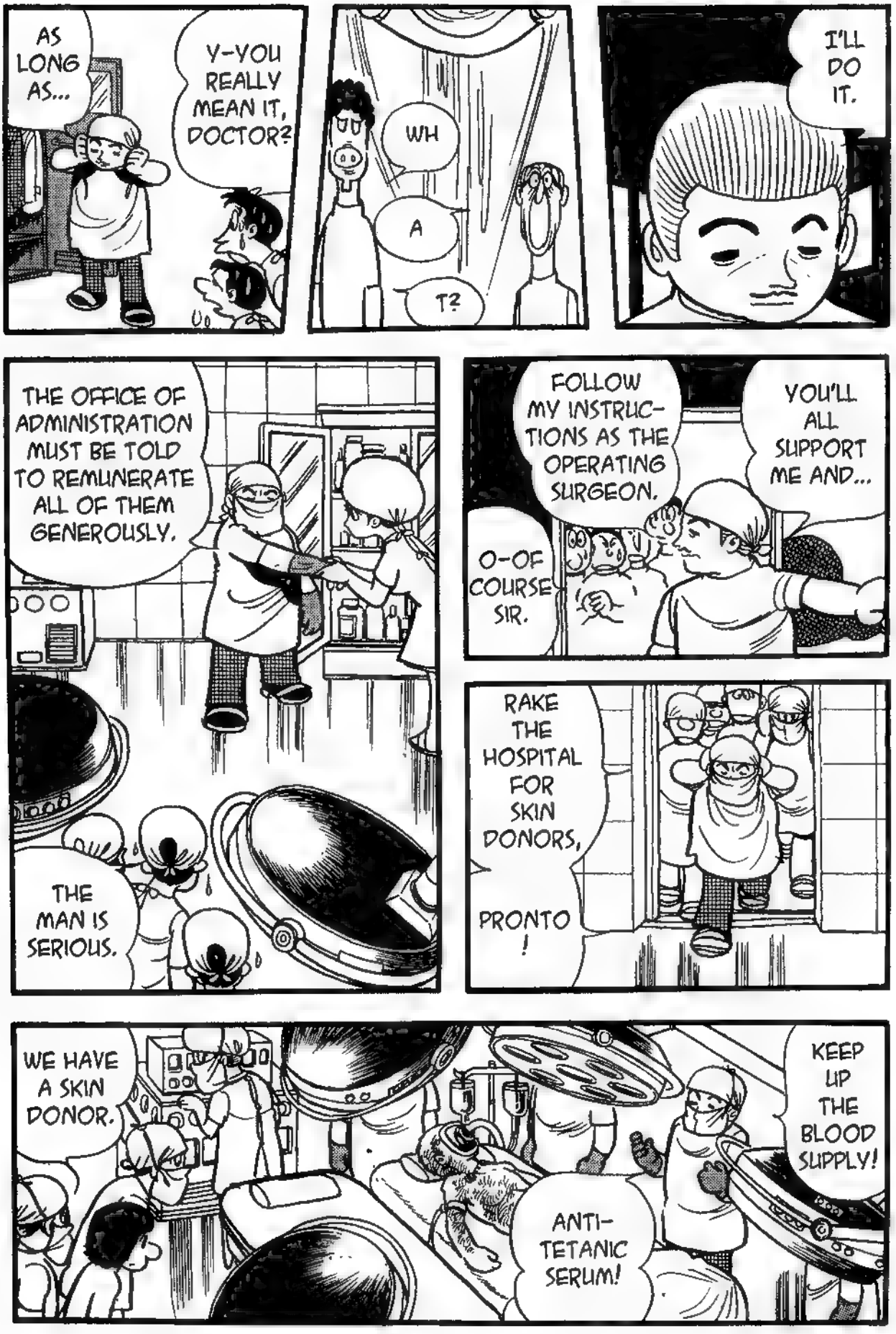

C'MON, IT'S JUST A LITTLE GIFT. BUT CAN I COUNT ON YOUR VOTE?
SURGERY AND UROLOGY ARE BEHIND ME. THAT'S 12 VOTES!
SHIBATA'S NO MATCH FOR ME.
I'VE GOT INTERNAL MEDICINE LOCKED DOWN.
WASN'T IT A STUNT TO STEAL THE ELECTION FOR YOURSELF?
TRYING TO BECOME POPULAR!
I HEARD YOU ADMINISTERED ANESTHESIA TO A TRUCK DRIVER IN PUBLIC.
DOCTOR SHIITAKE!
THEN VOTE FOR ME.
NOT AT ALL...

LEAVE DR. SHIITAKE TO US.
WE'LL BAG HIM FOR YOU EASILY.
VOTE FOR TOKU-GAWA!
YOU SAY SO BUT YOU'LL
I'LL CAST MY OWN VOTE.
ALL OUR TOP STAFF GOT ARRESTED!
WHATTA SCANDAL!
WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
DO? WITHOUT A DIRECTOR OR A CHIEF PHYSICIAN?
WE COULD ELECT AN ACTING ONE— BUT WHO?
"DOCTORS ARRESTED FOR CORRUPT ELECTION— BRIBE MONEY FUNDED BY MAFIA"
真中病院医師逮捕
病院長選出に買収
暴力団が資金源
えらいこっちゃ
"WHATTA SCANDAL"
PROBABLY KEEPING QUIET.
AND WHAT'S DOCTOR SHIITAKE DOING?
DEAD-CENTRAL HOSPITAL'S IN SOME TURMOIL RIGHT NOW.

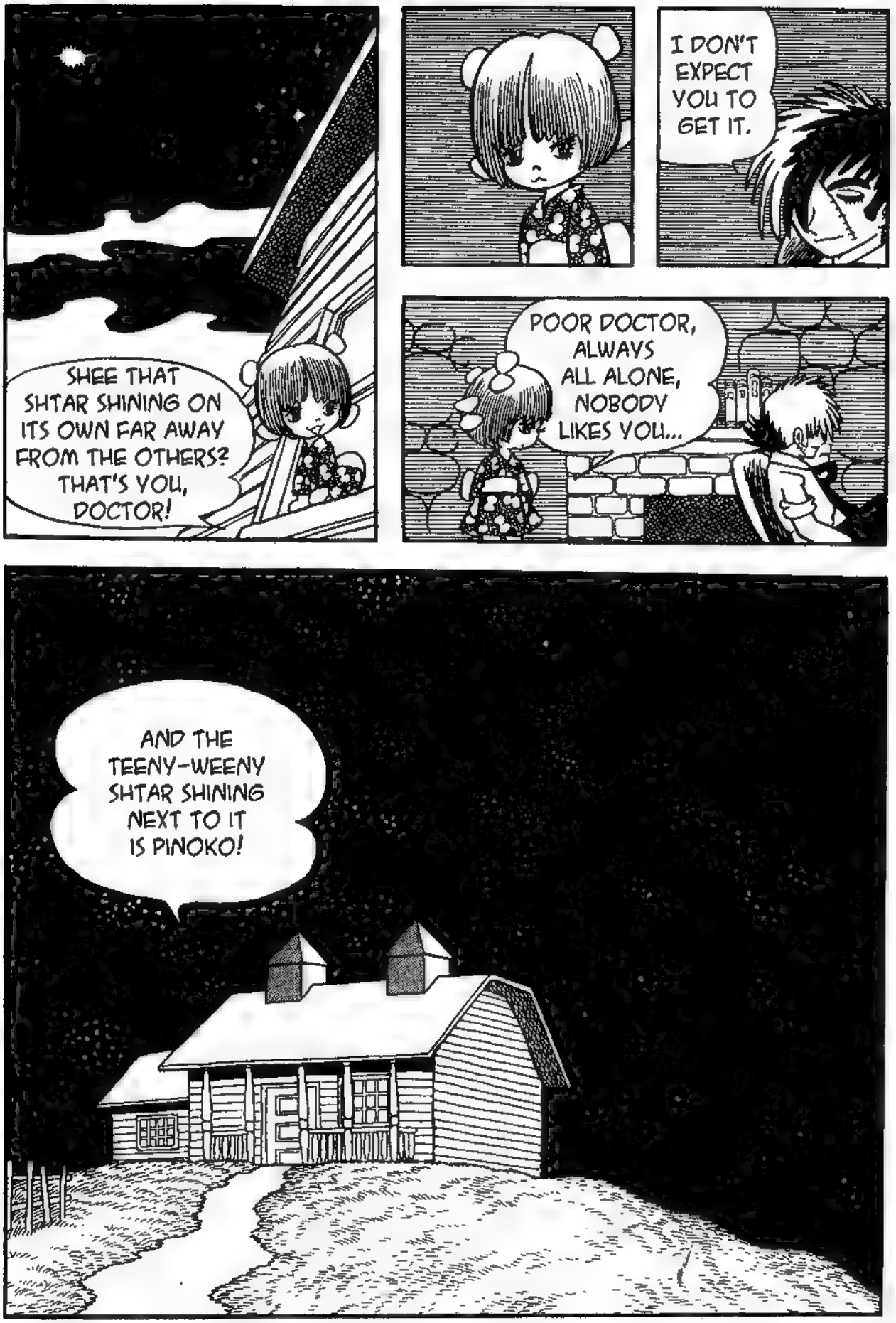
SHO HE'S LIKE A PHANTOM ?
EVEN IF HE DOES, THEY WON'T GIVE HIM THE TIME OF DAY.
HE WON'T SHPEAK UP?
OH? DEAD-CENTRAL HOSPITAL?
RRRING
BURNS ALL OVER AND BARELY ALIVE? TREAT HIM, THEN. NO TIME FOR A TRANSFER.
WHAT? YOU'LL SEND ME THE VICTIM OF THE FIREWORKS ACCIDENT?

YOU'RE A MEGA-HOSPITAL, THERE CAN'T BE NO ONE.
DON'T KID ME.
NOT A SINGLE DOCTOR LEFT FOR A MAJOR OPERATION?
WHY CAN'T YOU TREAT HIM?!
"HIS LIFE IS AT STAKE"?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THROWING YOUR HANDS UP?
HOW ABOUT DOCTOR SHIITAKE?
IF YOU REALLY WANT ME FOR THIS SURGERY ...
LISTEN
WHY'S IT HARD EVEN TO IMAGINE?
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU DID!
THEY HUNG UP.
KACHAK
I WANT THE MONEY UP FRONT, OR NO DEAL.
I'D DO IT FOR FIFTY MILLION YEN!

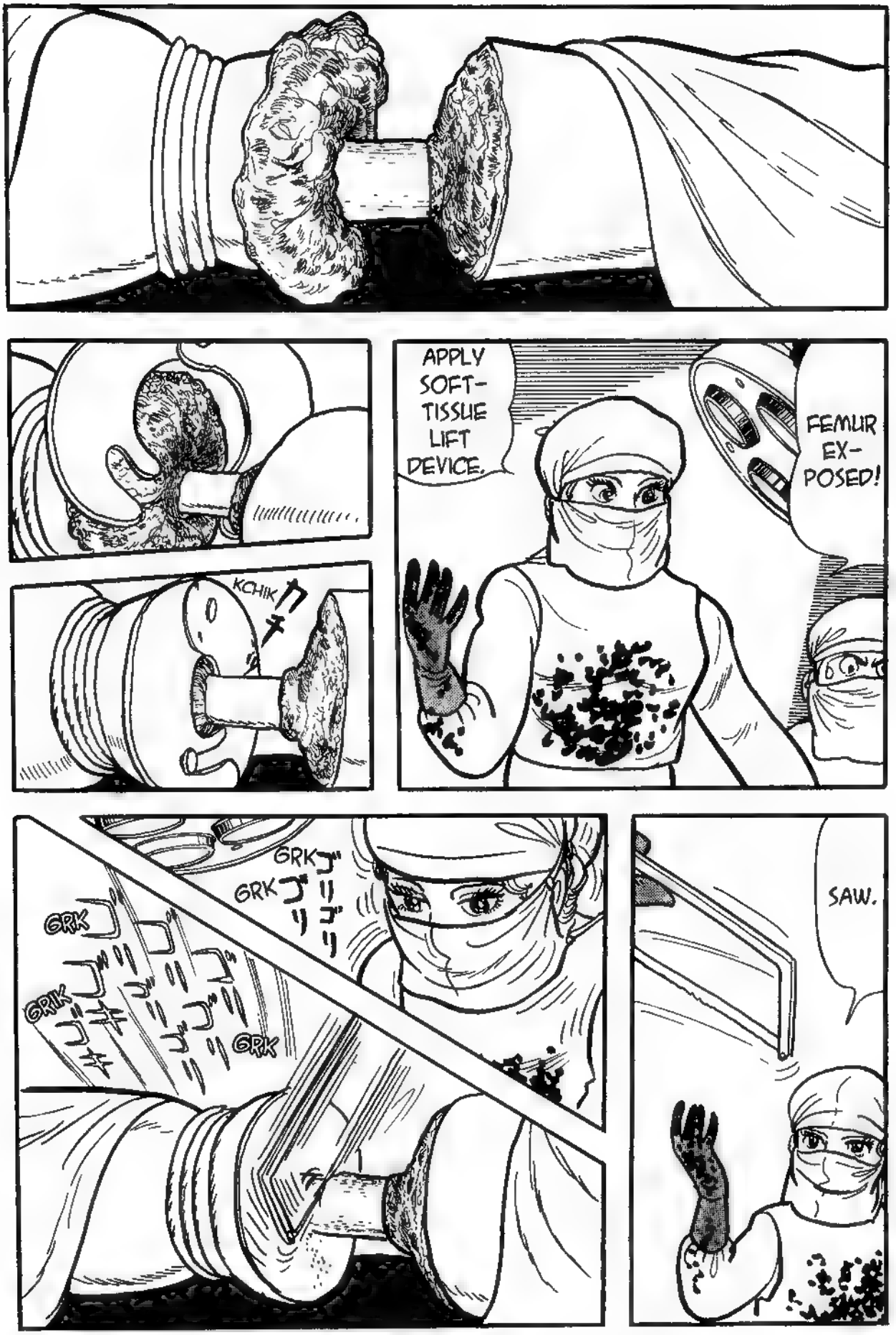

THIRD-DEGREE BURNS OVER 36 PERCENT OF THE BODY, A THIRD BURNT TO A CRISP! BROKEN BONES AND SHOCK!
WHO WILL DO IT?
AND WHO'S "WE"?
50 MILLION! WE'LL JUST OPERATE OURSELVES!
WHAT A JERK, TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US.
DR. SHIITAKE, WE ASK THAT YOU HEAD THE OPERATION.
WHY ME?
BUT
A CERTAIN PERSON RECOM-MENDED YOU FOR THE JOB...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE THE LONGEST ...
WELL, UH...
HE HASN'T GOT THE NERVE!
HE'S LOOKING FOR A WAY TO WIGGLE OUT OF THIS.
YOU'RE ASKING ME, KNOWING THAT?
I'VE NEVER BEEN HEAD SURGEON.

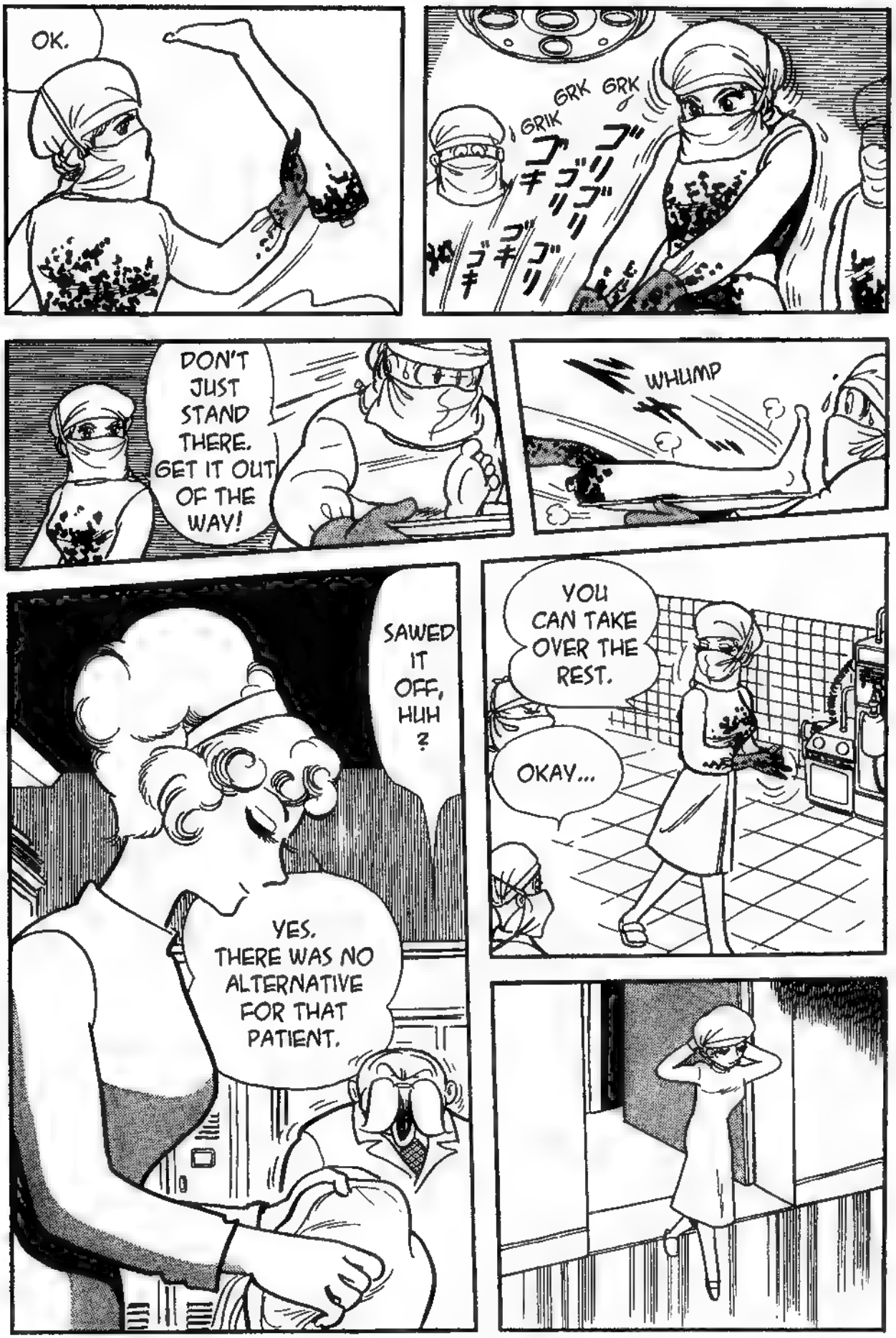

AS LONG AS...
Y-YOU REALLY MEAN IT, DOCTOR?
WH
A
T?
I'LL DO IT.
THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION MUST BE TOLD TO REMUNERATE ALL OF THEM GENEROUSLY.
THE MAN IS SERIOUS.
FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS AS THE OPERATING SURGEON.
YOU'LL ALL SUPPORT ME AND...
O-OF COURSE SIR.
RAKE THE HOSPITAL FOR SKIN DONORS, PRONTO !
WE HAVE A SKIN DONOR.
ANTI-TETANIC SERUM!
KEEP UP THE BLOOD SUPPLY!

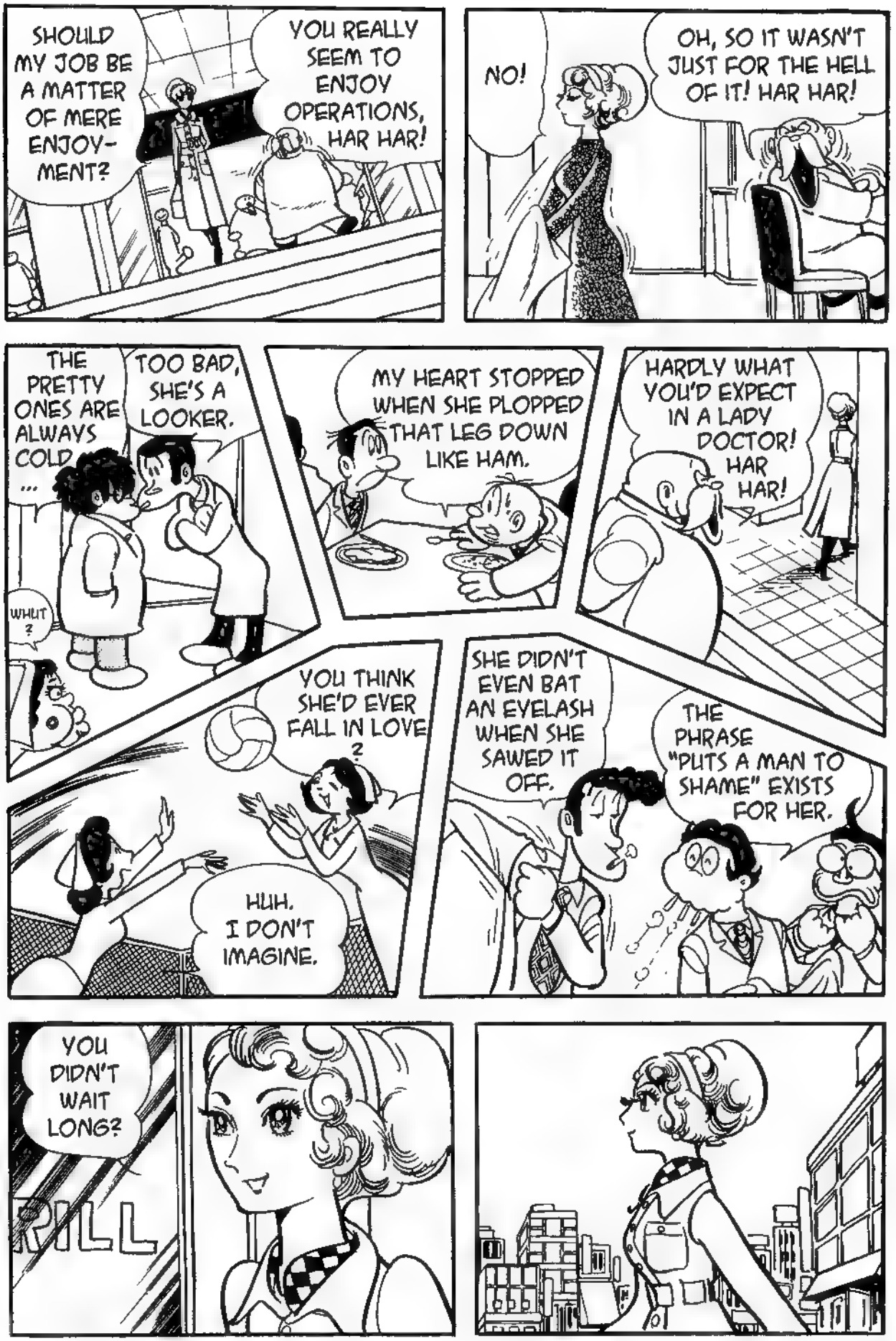
WE'LL START WITH THE FRONT TORSO.
ANY OINTMENTS?
VARIDASE WET COMPRESSES ON ALL WOUNDS.
FORGET IT.
VITAMIN K!
YES. DIGITALIS AND SOME A.C.H. ...
CARDIO TONIC?
DOCTOR, HIS HEART RATE...
THEY'RE GETTING A WAKE-UP CALL RIGHT AROUND NOW...
REGARDING WHO THEIR NEW DIRECTOR SHOULD BE.
HUH, BUT THEY ALSO FINK WE'RE SHUCH MEANIES.
SCALPEL
...
...

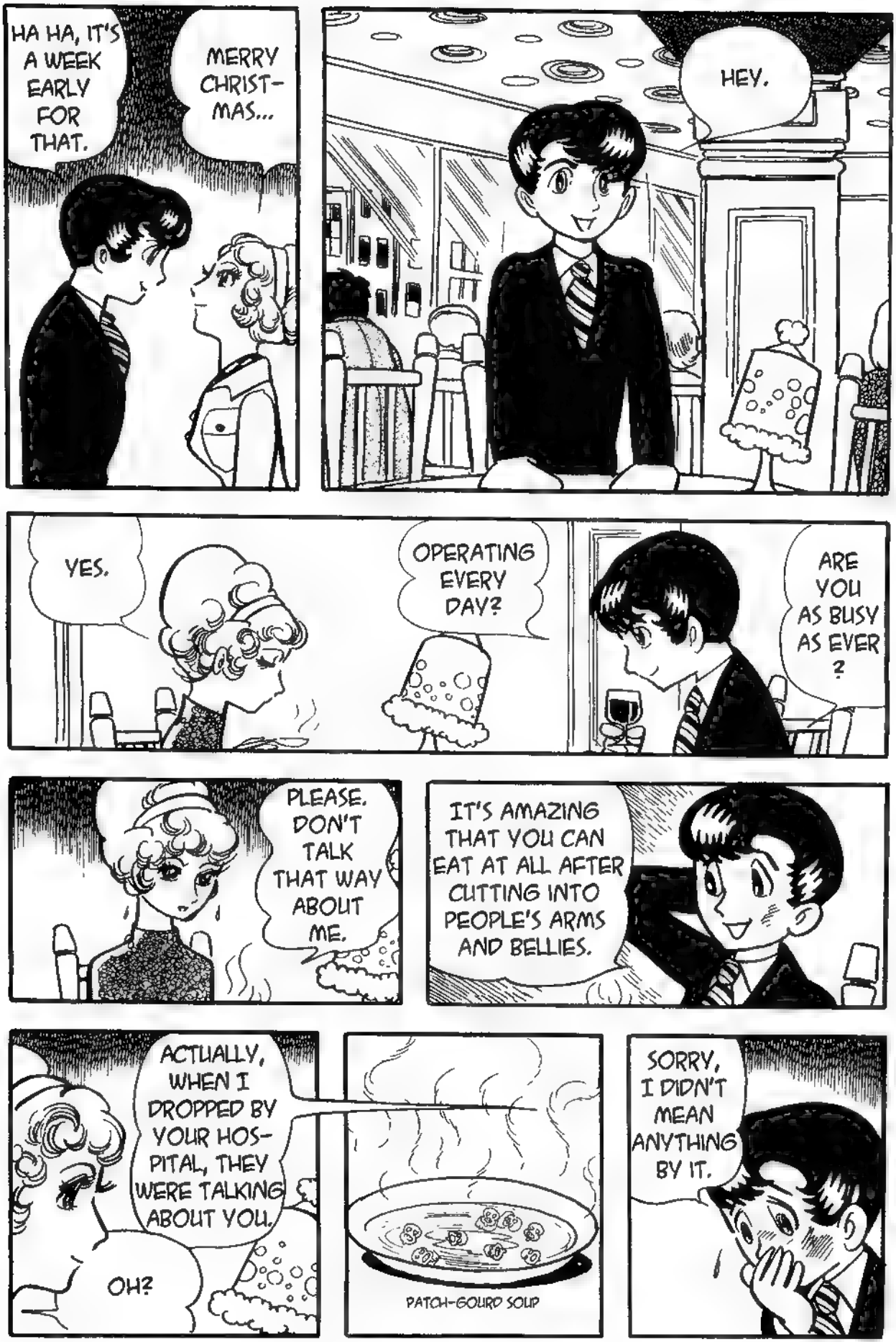

SHEE THAT SHTAR SHINING ON ITS OWN FAR AWAY FROM THE OTHERS? THAT'S YOU, DOCTOR!
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO GET IT.
POOR DOCTOR, ALWAYS ALL ALONE, NOBODY LIKES YOU...
AND THE TEENY-WEENY SHTAR SHINING NEXT TO IT IS PINOKO!

BLACK QUEEN


APPLY SOFT-TISSUE LIFT DEVICE.
FEMUR EX-POSED!
KCHIK カチ
GRK ゴリゴリ
GRK ゴリゴリ
GRK ゴリゴリ
GRK ゴリゴリ
SAW.


OK.
GRIK
GRK GRK
ゴキ
ゴリゴリゴリ
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴリ
DON'T JUST STAND THERE. GET IT OUT OF THE WAY!
WHUMP
SAWED IT OFF, HUH?
YES. THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR THAT PATIENT.
YOU CAN TAKE OVER THE REST.
OKAY...


SHOULD MY JOB BE A MATTER OF MERE ENJOY-MENT?
YOU REALLY SEEM TO ENJOY OPERATIONS, HAR HAR!
NO!
OH, SO IT WASN'T JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT! HAR HAR!
THE PRETTY ONES ARE ALWAYS COLD ...
TOO BAD, SHE'S A LOOKER.
WHUT ?
MY HEART STOPPED WHEN SHE PLOPPED THAT LEG DOWN LIKE HAM.
HARDLY WHAT YOU'D EXPECT IN A LADY DOCTOR! HAR HAR!
YOU THINK SHE'D EVER FALL IN LOVE ?
HUH. I DON'T IMAGINE.
SHE DIDN'T EVEN BAT AN EYELASH WHEN SHE SAWED IT OFF.
THE PHRASE "PUTS A MAN TO SHAME" EXISTS FOR HER.
YOU DIDN'T WAIT LONG?
RILL


HA HA, IT'S A WEEK EARLY FOR THAT.
MERRY CHRIST-MAS...
HEY.
YES.
OPERATING EVERY DAY?
ARE YOU AS BUSY AS EVER?
PLEASE. DON'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT ME.
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU CAN EAT AT ALL AFTER CUTTING INTO PEOPLE'S ARMS AND BELLIES.
ACTUALLY, WHEN I DROPPED BY YOUR HOS-PITAL, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU.
OH?
PATCH-GOURD SOUP
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.

LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY WANT.
"THAT COLD-BLOODED ICE QUEEN OF THE SCALPEL."
THEY SAID SOME PRETTY NASTY THINGS.
BLACK JACK'S A COLD-BLOODED FIEND OF THE SCALPEL, ISN'T HE?
"BLACK QUEEN"!
THERE'S WORSE.
"THE WOMAN BLACK JACK."
WAIT. YOU WANT ME TO STOP PRACTICING?
I'D SAY BEING COMPARED TO SUCH A MAN IS QUITE A DISGRACE.
JUST NO OPERATIONS.
ONCE WE'RE MARRIED, YOU'LL HAVE MY INCOME. YOU CAN DROP THIS SURGERY THING.
IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR!
ROCK DEAR, I CAN'T QUIT MY JOB!

I'M GOING HOME.
KONOMI !!
WAIT, KONOMI!
THE WOMAN BLACK JACK
QUEEN OF THE SCALPEL!
WELL, THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF DOCTOR I AM.
I'LL SLICE THEM UP RIGHT AND LEFT!
YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD. I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE A HEART OF ICE.
WELL, I NEVER. IF YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DON'T GET ME... OH, I DON'T THINK I CARE.

WOULD THAT BE BLACK JACK THE DOCTOR? HE'S A REGULAR.
THERE.
THE WOMAN BLACK JACK! GOT IT?
DID YOU KNOW? I'M BLACK QUEEN!
NAME'S KONOMI KUWATA! HEE HEE!
URP!
OH, SO YOU'RE DOCTOR BLACK JACK. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
FEELING THE HONOR?
THEY'VE NAMED ME AFTER YOU.

YOU'VE NAILED ME.
THAT ALL TRUE?
YOU ARE A CHILLY, COLD-BLOODED FIEND OF THE SCALPEL, A VAMPIRE, A FRANKENSTEIN, A ROBOT MAN OF ICE!
WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER.
BIRDS OF A FEATHER! SHAKE ON IT!
AH HA HA HA! HA HA HA! HEE HEE HEE! OH HO HO!
BYE BYE ...
...
NO IDEA!
WHICH HOS-PITAL IS SHE AT?
ARE YOU *KIDDING*? I'VE NEVER MADE A MISTAKE— IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!
I SEE YOU'VE HAD A LOT TO DRINK. DID YOU BOTCH AN OPERATION, OR WHAT?
I'M SURE A "MISS," BUT I NEVER GO AMISS! GOT THAT ONE?

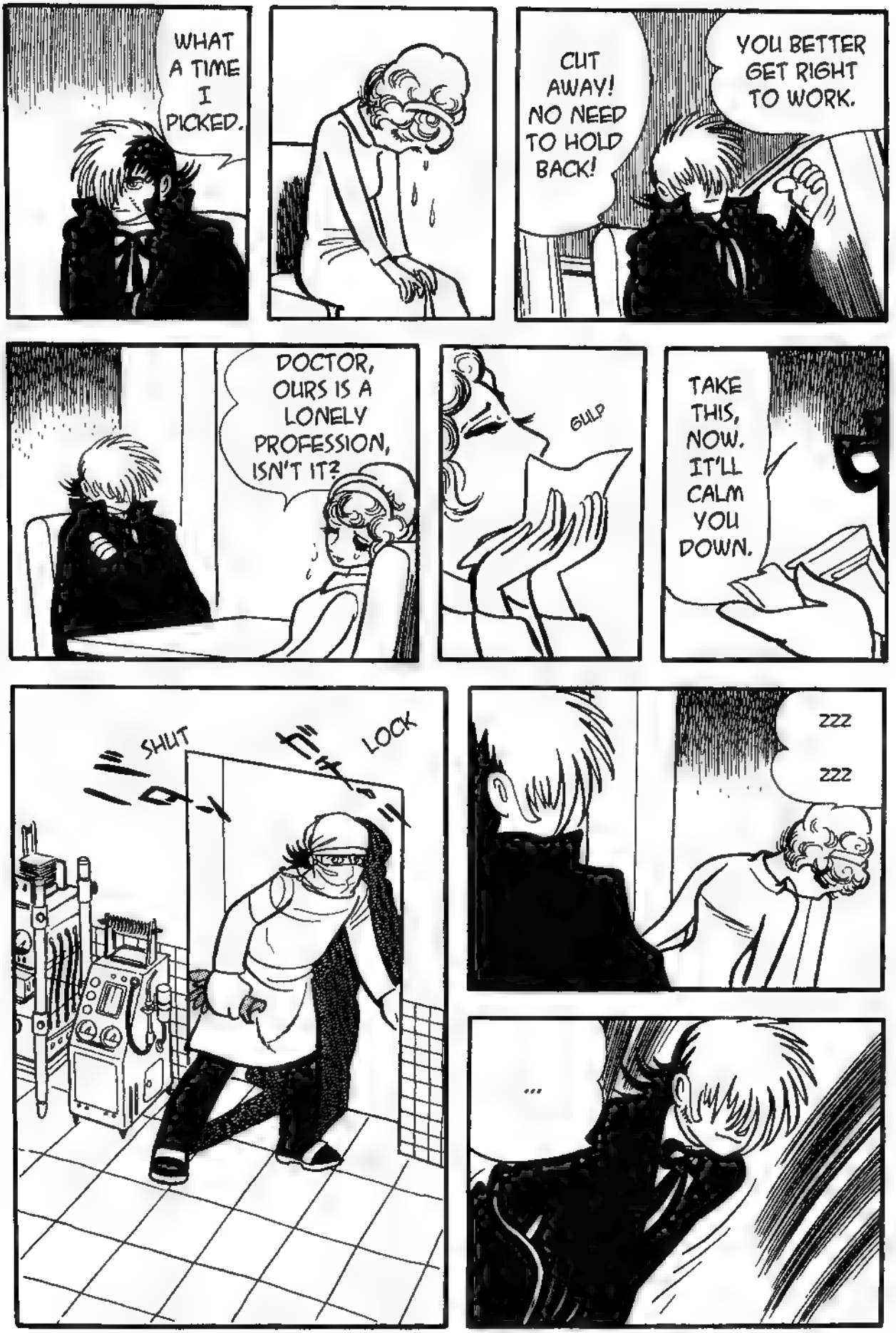
SH!
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE GUY'S HAD ENOUGH OF HER ICINESS ...
NO!
DID YOU HEAR? DR. BLACK QUEEN HAS A BOYFRIEND!
THAT'D BE MY HUNCH.
I DOUBT IT'LL LAST.
URGENT PHONE CALL, DOCTOR.
WE'LL EXCISE THREE DIGITS, RIGHT HAND.
B... BRING HIM TO THIS HOSPITAL.
HE WAS CAUGHT IN A CRANE ARM!
ROCK? SERIOUSLY INJURED?

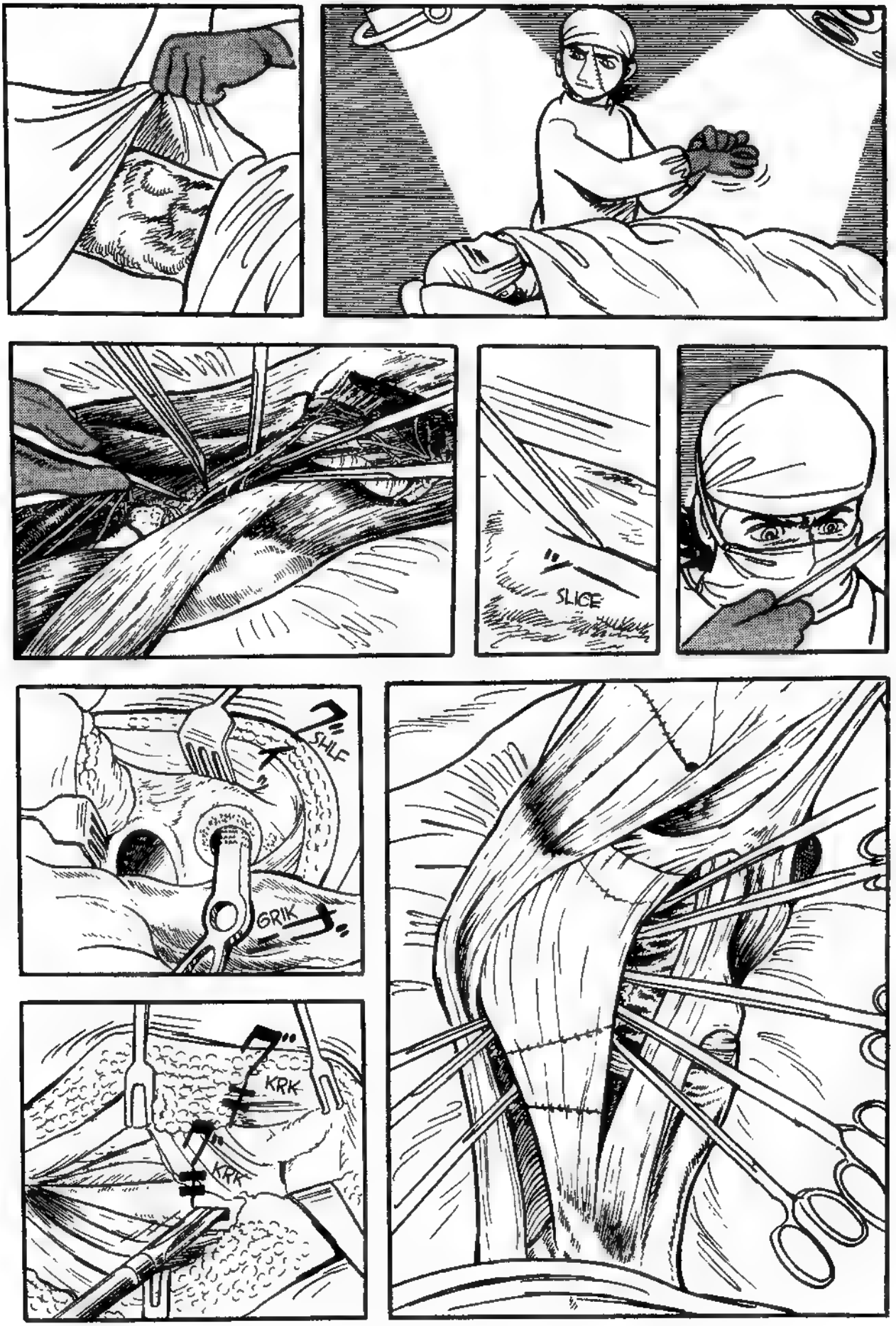
ROCK!!
WOEEE
X-RAYS! I WILL HANDLE THIS PATIENT.
yes...
WE CAN'T RESTORE THAT LEG... AMPUTATION IS THE ONLY OPTION.
NO! NO! NO! NOT THAT!
DOCTOR, WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE— HE'S IN DANGER.
OH GOD!!
THE BONES ARE SHATTERED... SEVERED NERVES... BLOOD VESSELS ARE...A MESS. RISK OF AN AIR EMBOLISM...

IT'S HER BEAU!
CUT OFF HER OWN LOVER'S LEG?
HE IS?
SHE'D REALLY BE A FIEND OF THE SCALPEL, THEN.
WILL SHE DO IT? BET SHE WILL...
I-I CAN'T DO IT...
I CAN'T...
NO!!
AIIEEE!!
OWWW!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

GASP
TOMORROW'S CHRISTMAS EVE. I BROUGHT YOU A GIFT.
FROM A JACK TO A QUEEN.
AND ...
IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU THE OTHER NIGHT.
HI. SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WORK.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK,
OH DEAR. I'M SORRY.
TELL ME...
WHAT'S WRONG ?

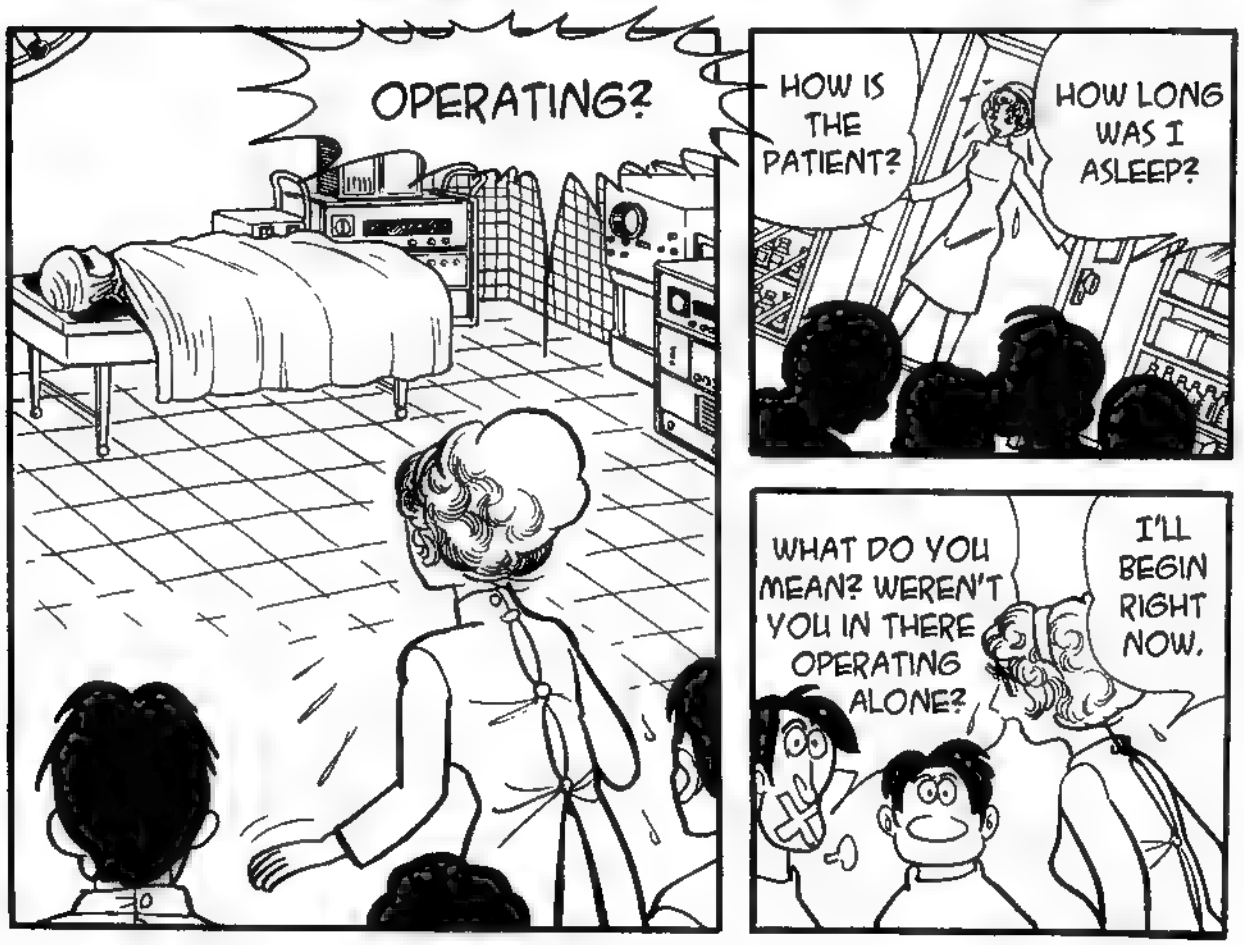
I WOULD.
WOULD YOU AMPUTATE HER ARM, HER LEG?
AND HER LIFE WERE AT STAKE,
IF YOU— PARDON ME— HAD A SWEETHEART,
YOU'RE AS COOL AS THEY SAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. HA!
I'M A DOCTOR. SWEETHEART OR NO, A DIAGNOSIS IS A DIAGNOSIS, PERIOD.
EVEN IF SHE'S DEARER TO YOU THAN YOURSELF?
...
ARE YOU TELLING ME...
I DIDN'T KNOW!
...
IT'S THAT SERIOUS?

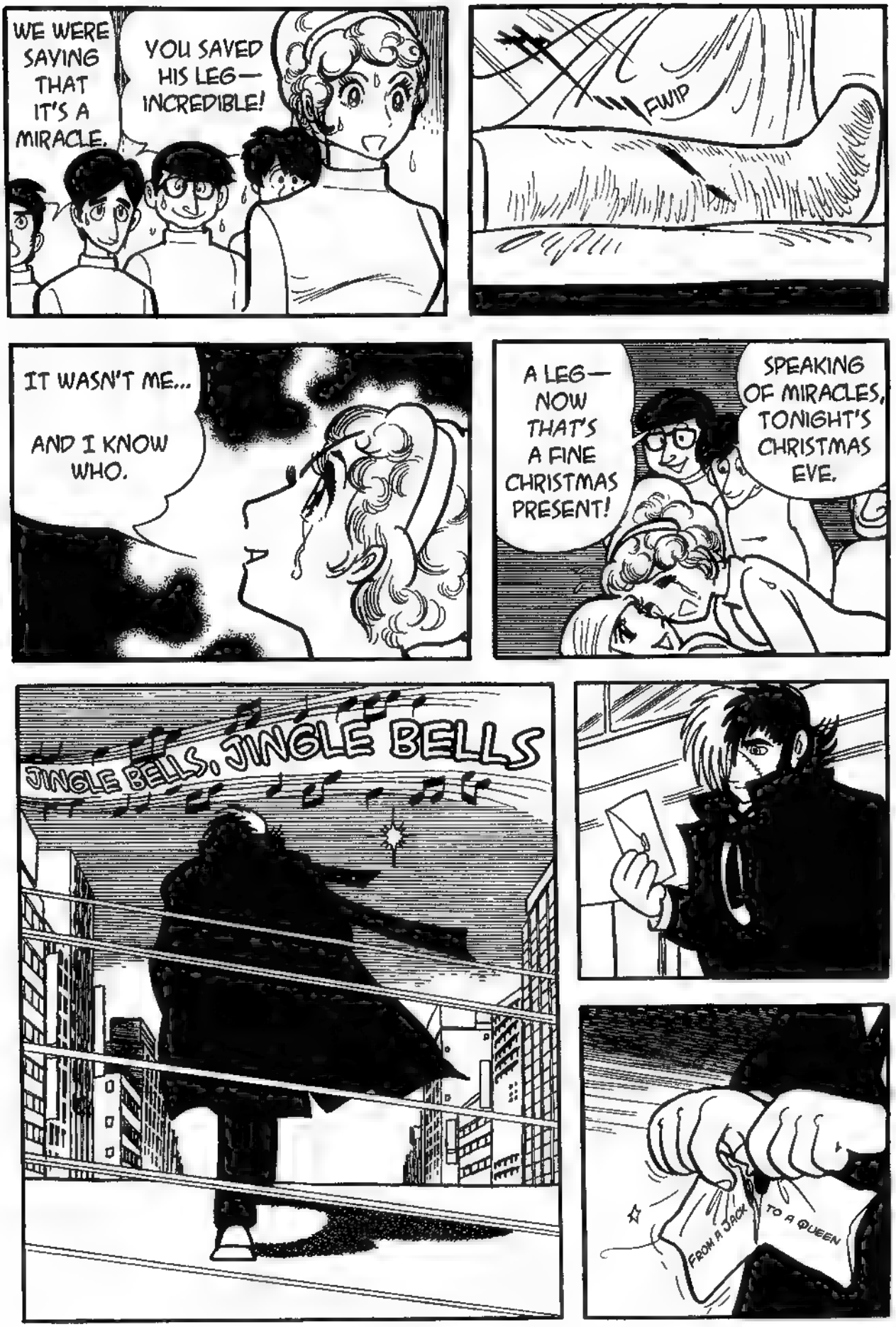

WHAT A TIME I PICKED.
CUT AWAY! NO NEED TO HOLD BACK!
YOU BETTER GET RIGHT TO WORK.
DOCTOR, OURS IS A LONELY PROFESSION, ISN'T IT?
GULP
TAKE THIS, NOW. IT'LL CALM YOU DOWN.
SHUT
LOCK
ZZZ
ZZZ
...


SLICE
SHLF
GRIK
KRK
KRK

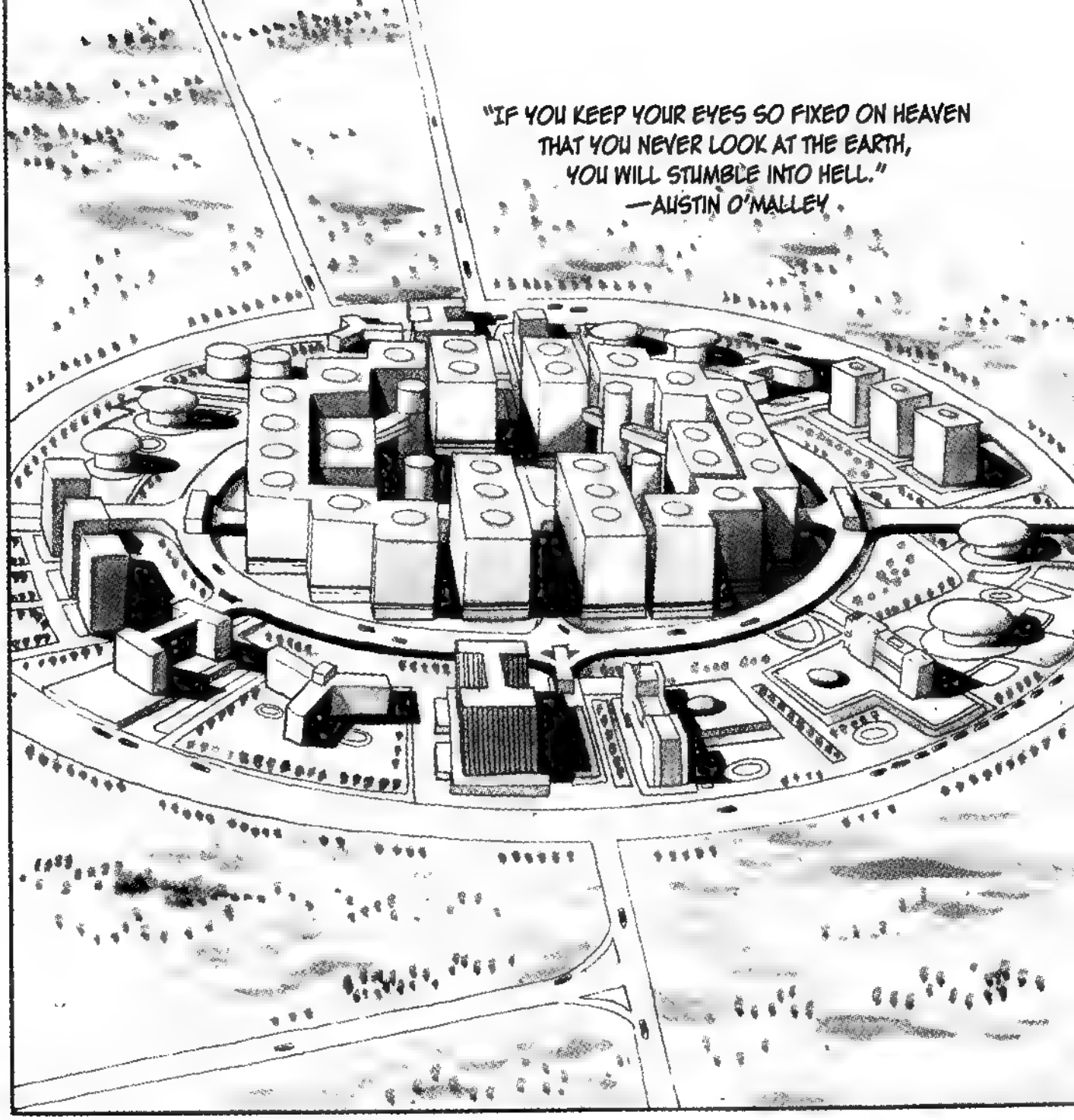
WHISH
WHISH

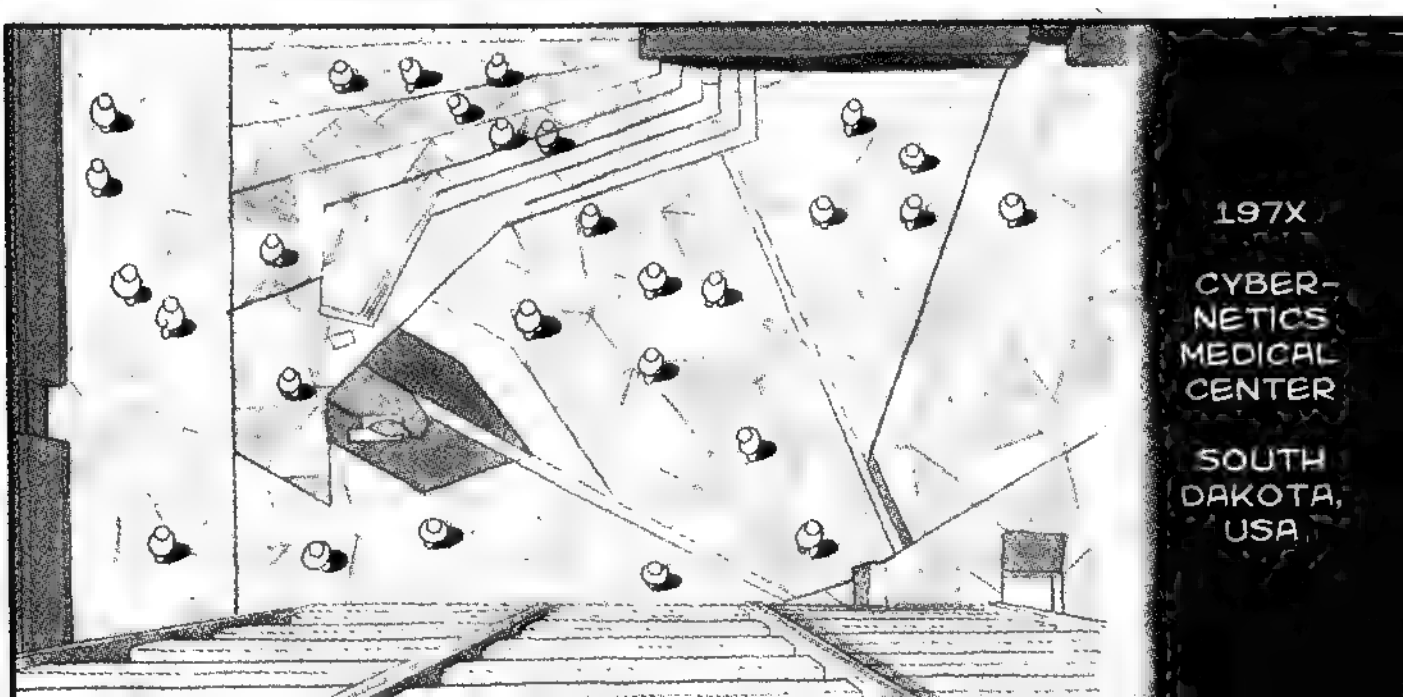
OH NO...!!
HUH?

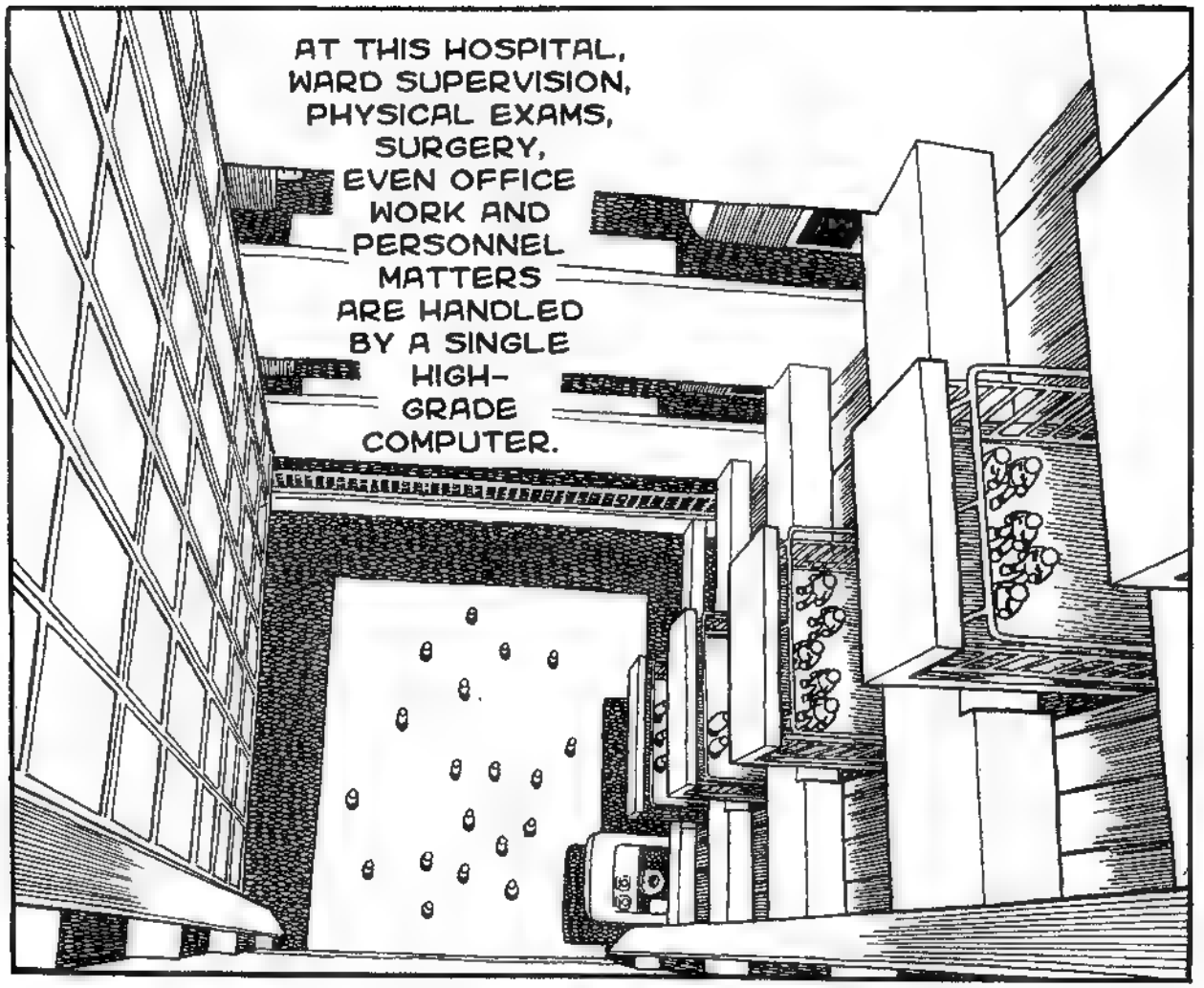

OPERATING?
HOW IS THE PATIENT?
HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WEREN'T YOU IN THERE OPERATING ALONE?
I'LL BEGIN RIGHT NOW.

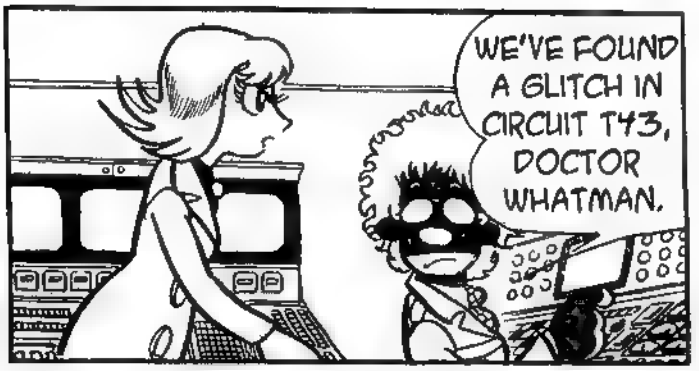

WE WERE SAVING THAT IT'S A MIRACLE.
YOU SAVED HIS LEG— INCREDIBLE!
FWIP
IT WASN'T ME...
AND I KNOW WHO.
A LEG— NOW THAT'S A FINE CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
SPEAKING OF MIRACLES, TONIGHT'S CHRISTMAS EVE.
JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS
FROM A JACK
TO A QUEEN

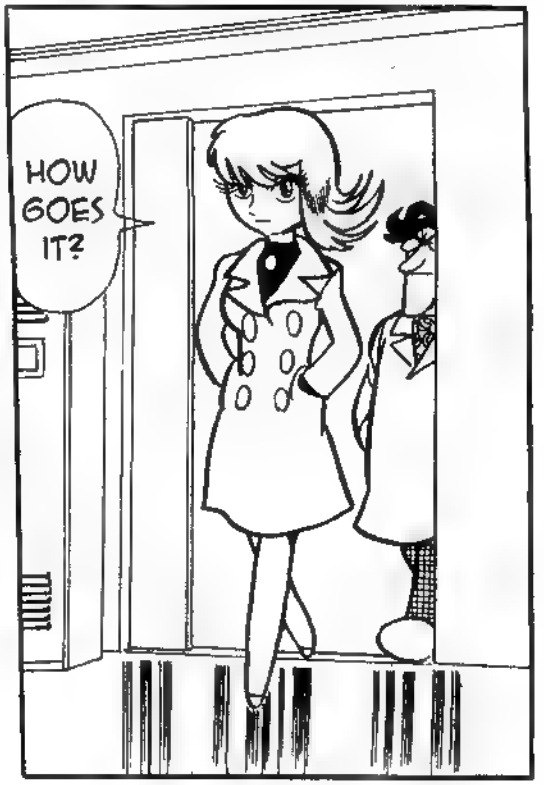
U-18 KNEW

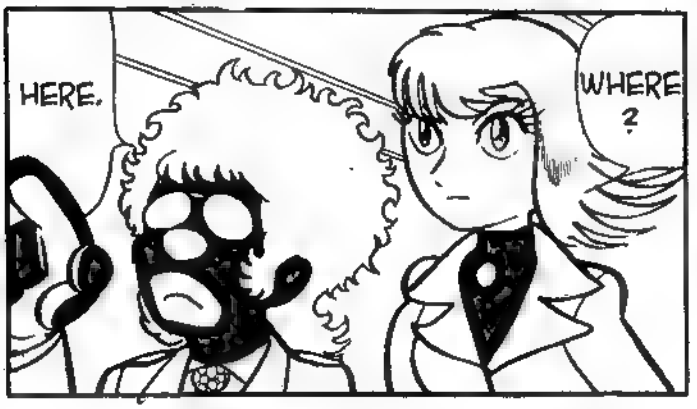

"IF YOU KEEP YOUR EYES SO FIXED ON HEAVEN
THAT YOU NEVER LOOK AT THE EARTH,
YOU WILL STUMBLE INTO HELL."
—AUSTIN O'MALLEY

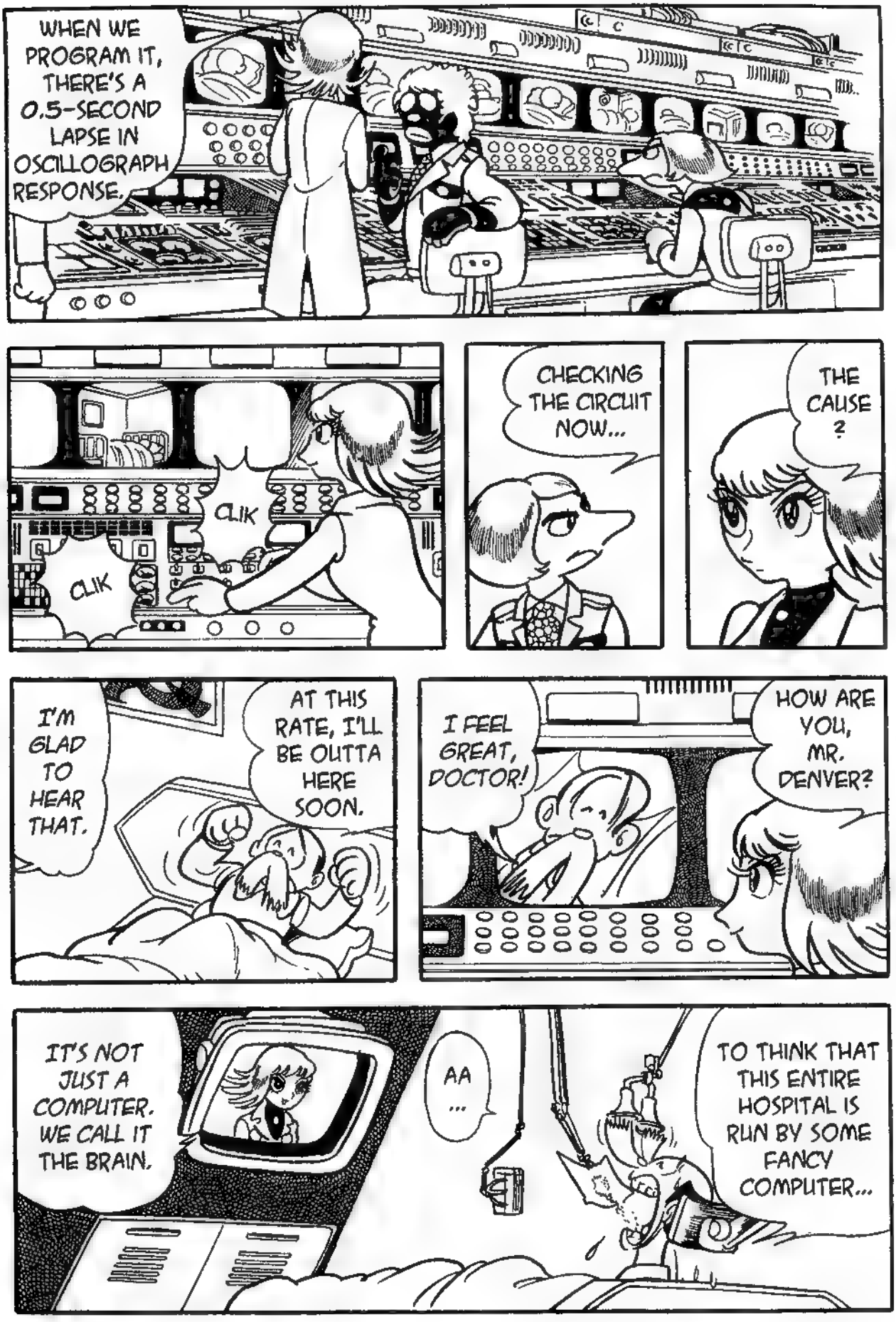

197X
CYBER-
NETICS
MEDICAL
CENTER
SOUTH
DAKOTA,
USA

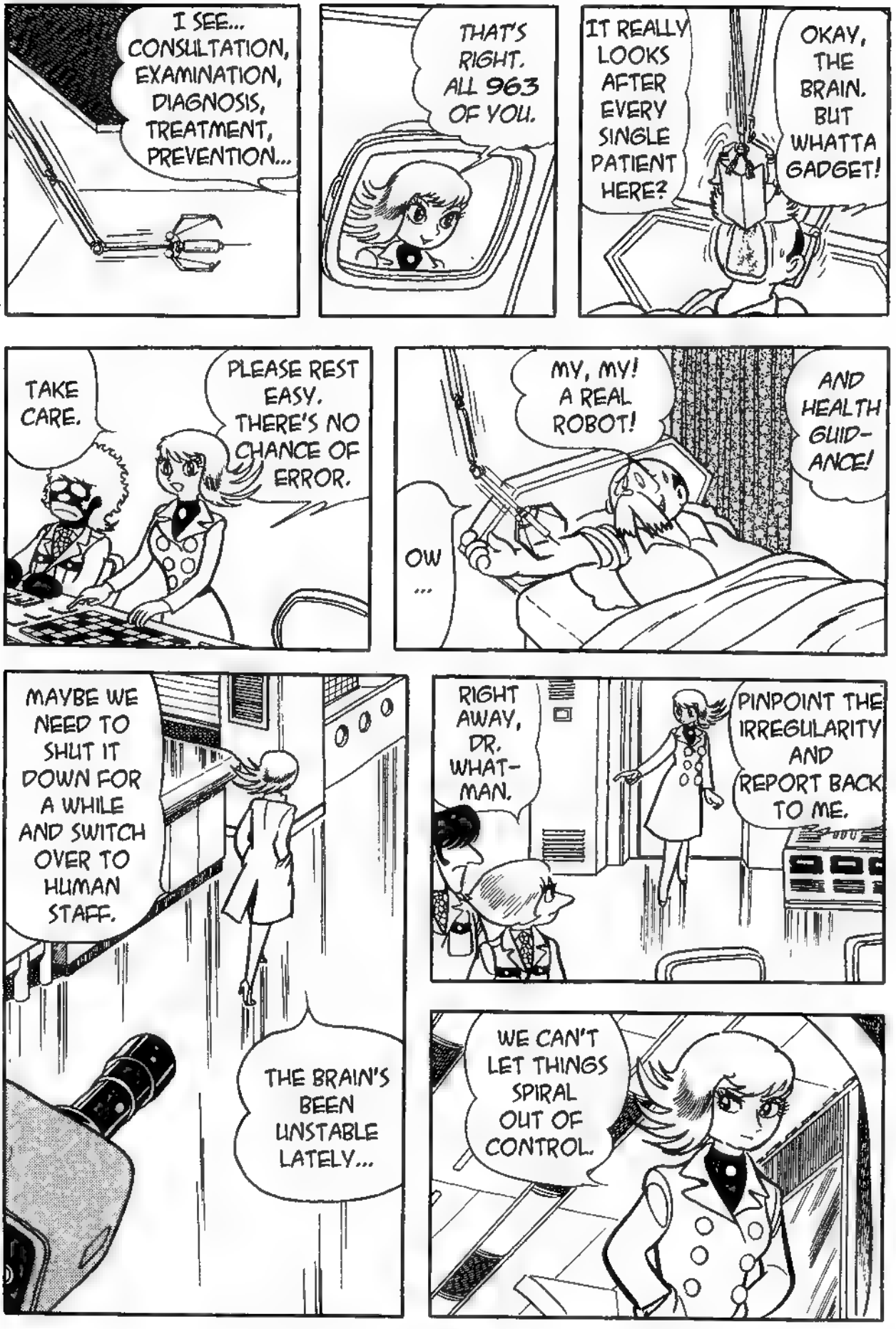

AT THIS HOSPITAL, WARD SUPERVISION, PHYSICAL EXAMS, SURGERY, EVEN OFFICE WORK AND PERSONNEL MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY A SINGLE HIGH-GRADE COMPUTER.

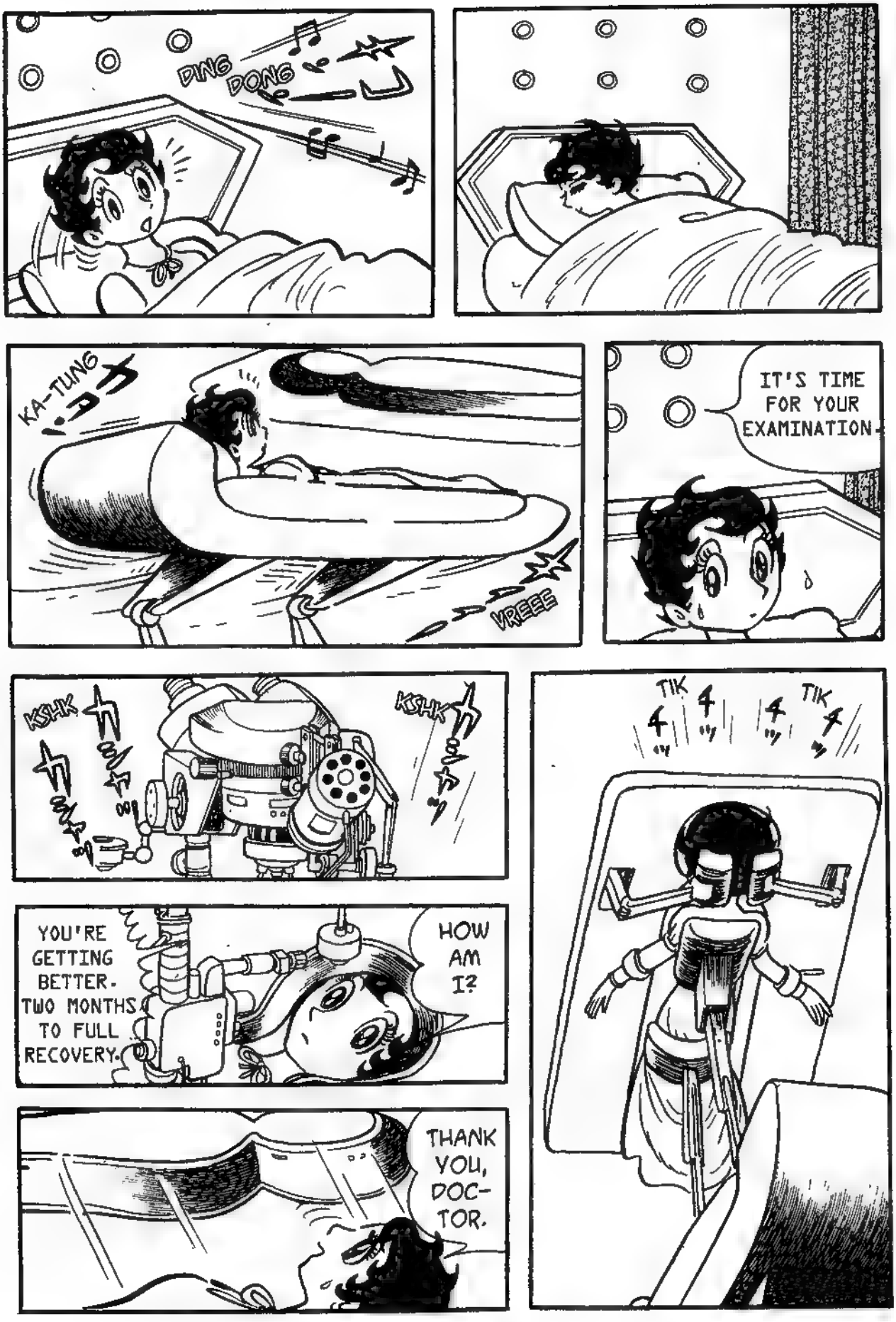

WE'VE FOUND A GLITCH IN CIRCUIT T43, DOCTOR WHATMAN.

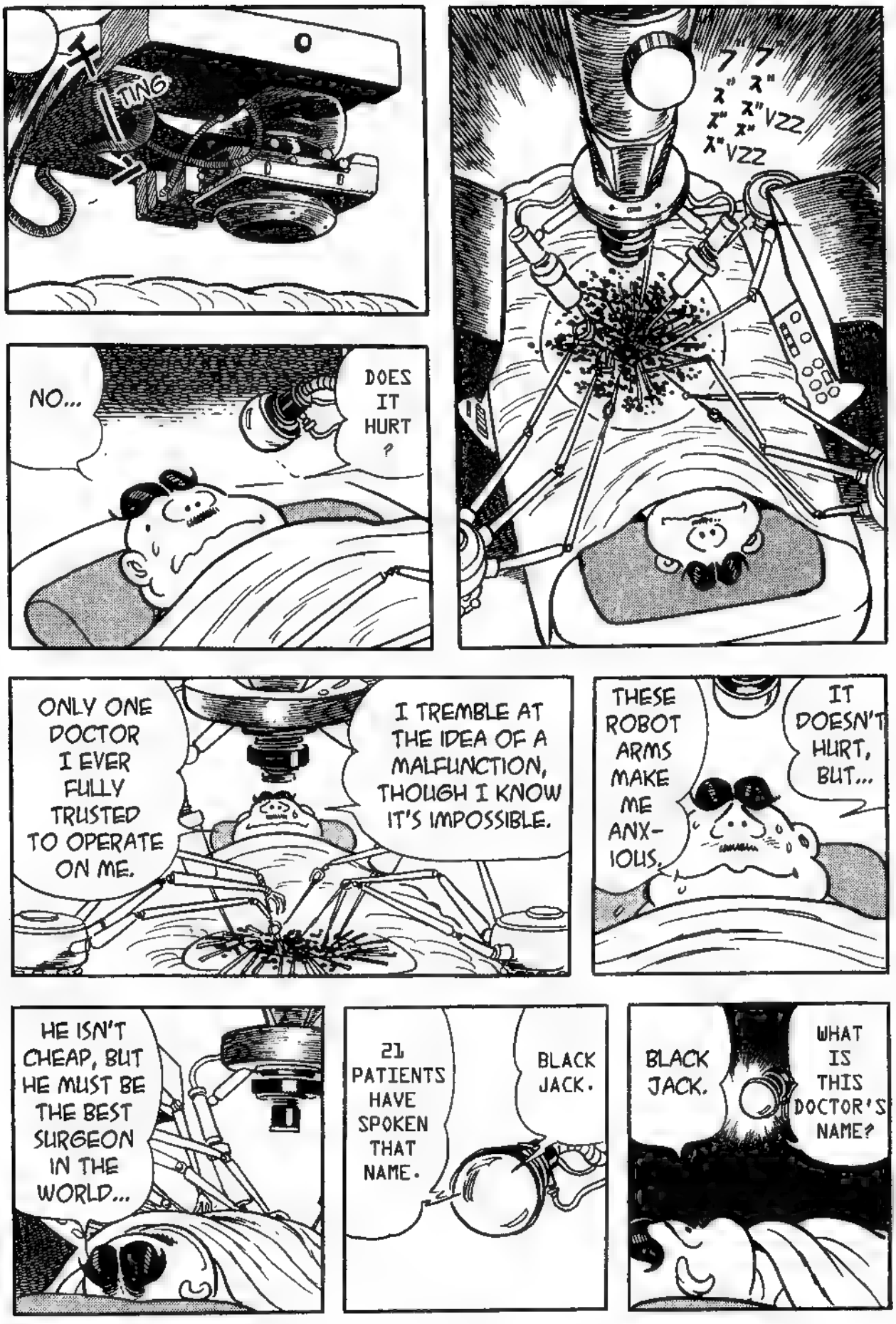

HOW GOES IT?

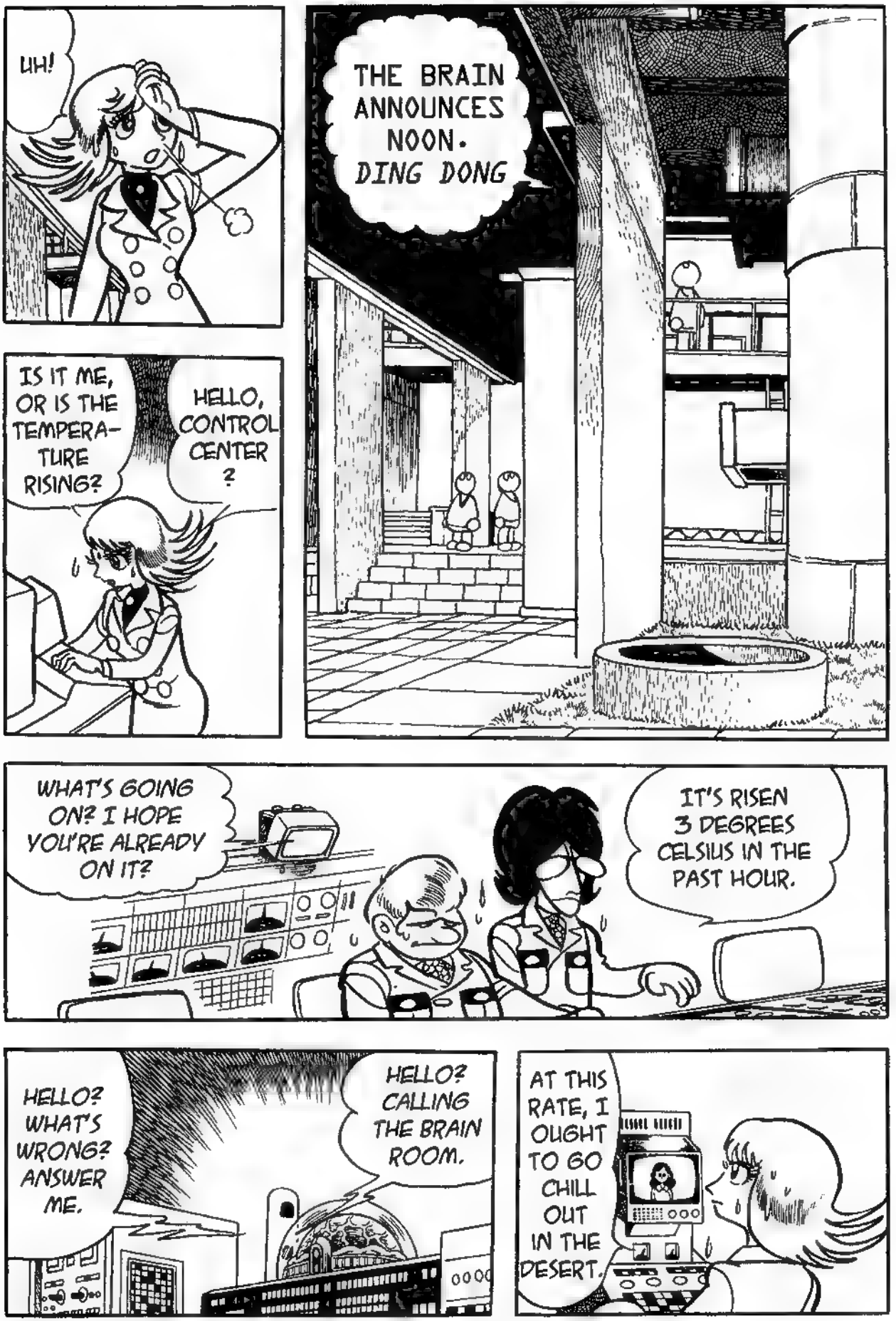

HERE.
WHERE?

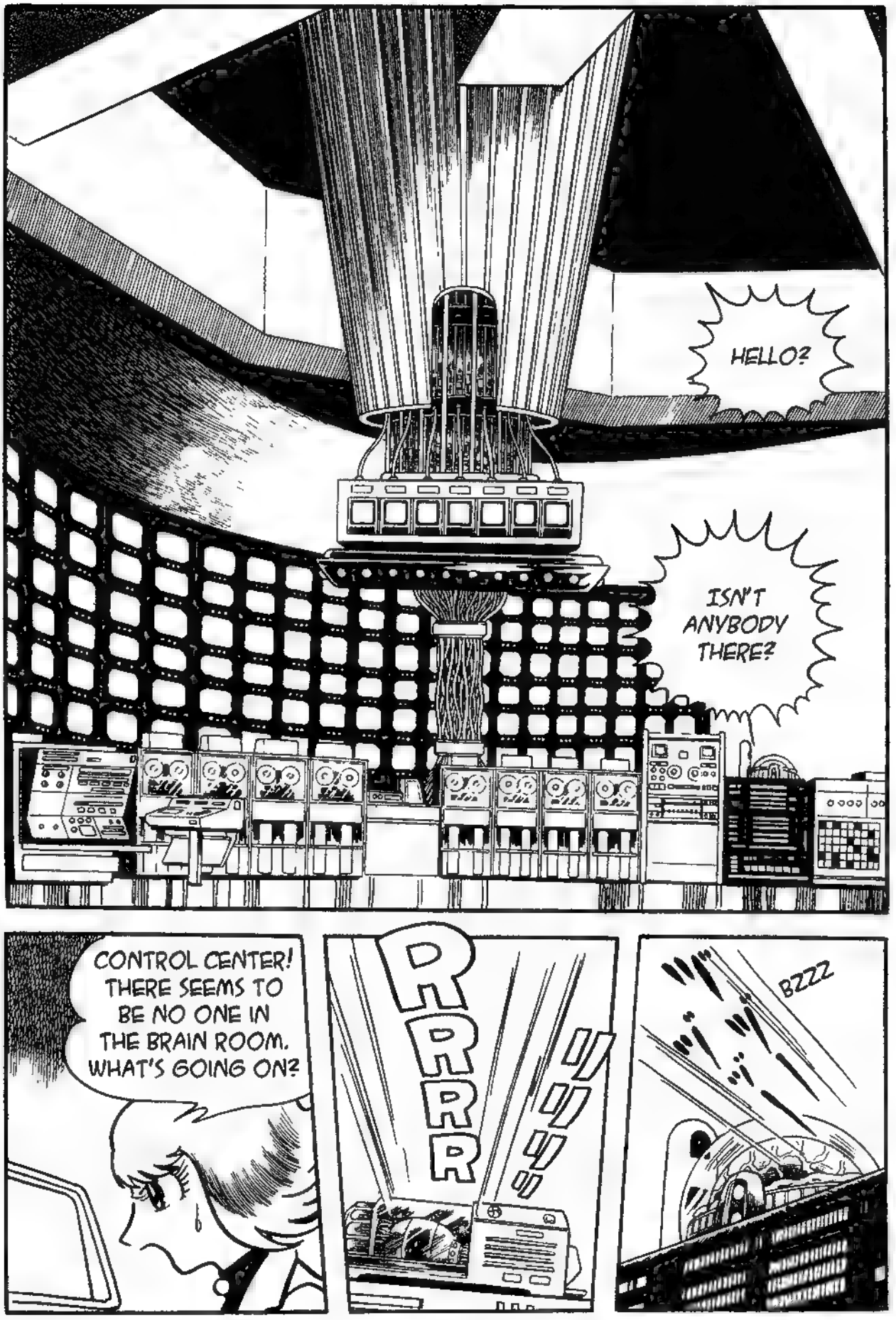

WHEN WE PROGRAM IT, THERE'S A 0.5-SECOND LAPSE IN OSCILLOGRAPH RESPONSE.
CLIK
CLIK
CHECKING THE CIRCUIT NOW...
THE CAUSE?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE OUTTA HERE SOON.
I FEEL GREAT, DOCTOR!
HOW ARE YOU, MR. DENVER?
IT'S NOT JUST A COMPUTER. WE CALL IT THE BRAIN.
AA ...
TO THINK THAT THIS ENTIRE HOSPITAL IS RUN BY SOME FANCY COMPUTER...

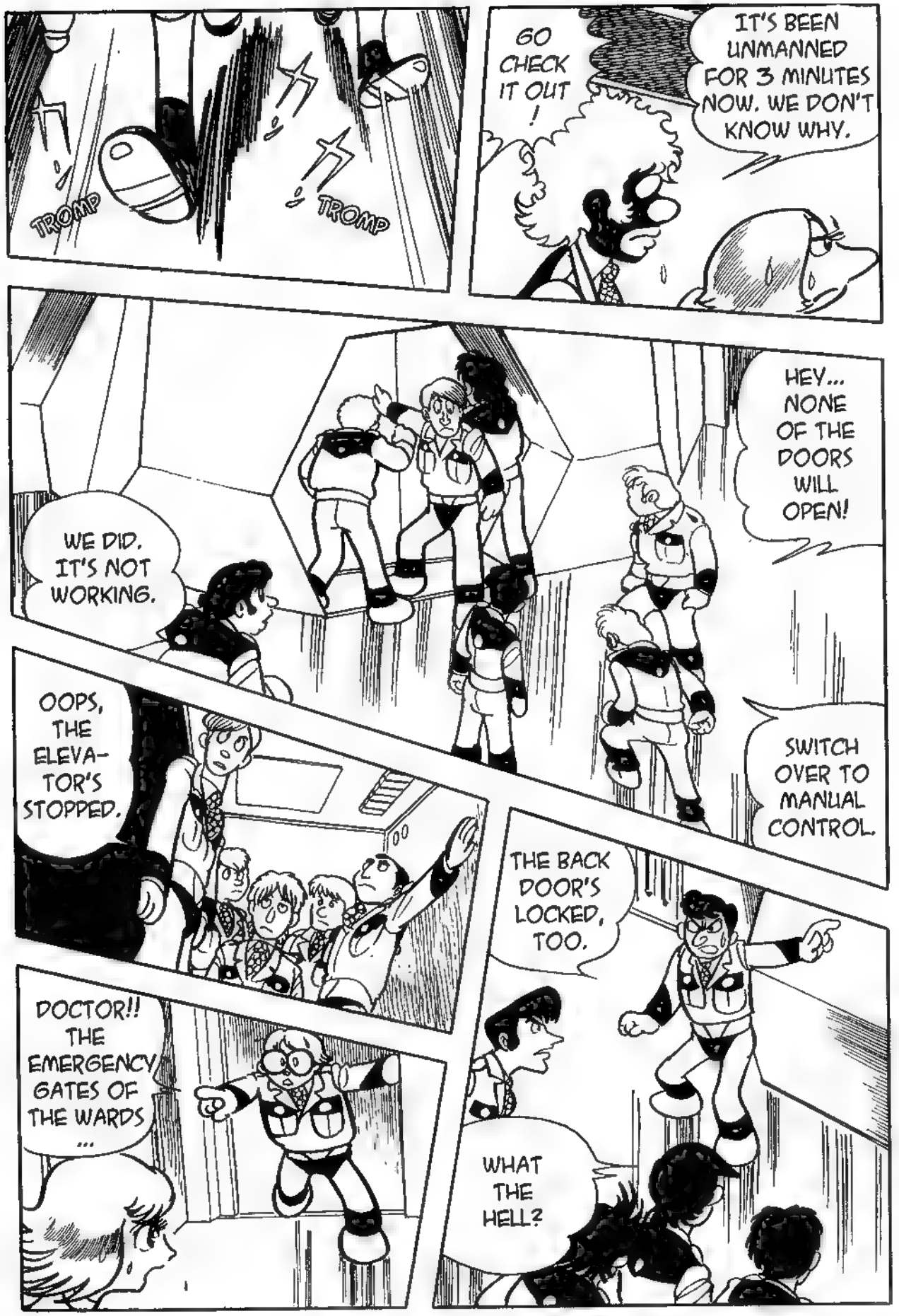

I SEE... CONSULTATION, EXAMINATION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, PREVENTION...
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL 963 OF YOU.
IT REALLY LOOKS AFTER EVERY SINGLE PATIENT HERE?
OKAY, THE BRAIN. BUT WHATTA GADGET!
TAKE CARE.
PLEASE REST EASY. THERE'S NO CHANCE OF ERROR.
MY, MY! A REAL ROBOT!
AND HEALTH GUID-ANCE!
OW ...
MAYBE WE NEED TO SHUT IT DOWN FOR A WHILE AND SWITCH OVER TO HUMAN STAFF.
THE BRAIN'S BEEN UNSTABLE LATELY...
RIGHT AWAY, DR. WHAT-MAN.
PINPOINT THE IRREGULARITY AND REPORT BACK TO ME.
WE CAN'T LET THINGS SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.

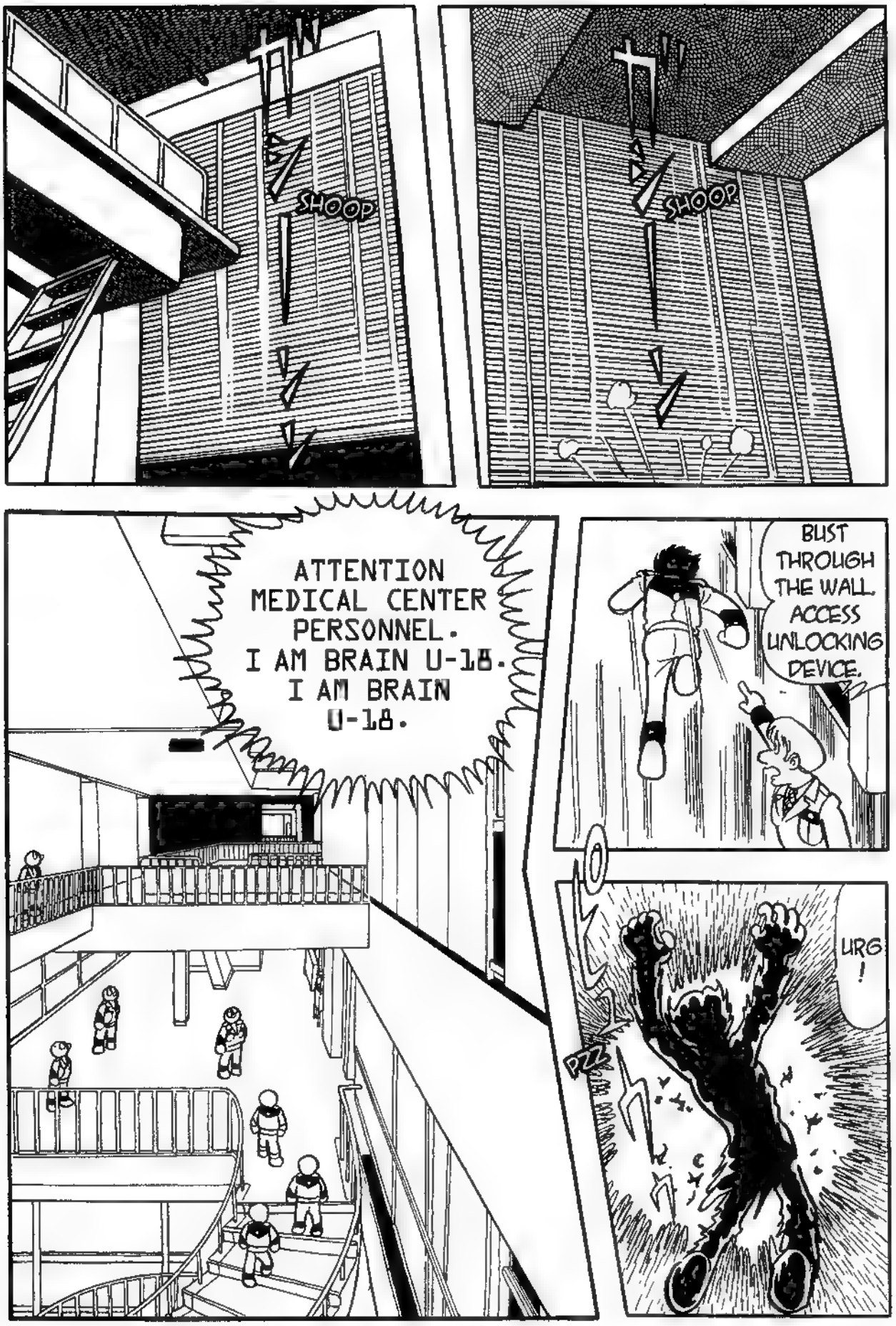

DING DONG
KA-TUNG
VREEE
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR EXAMINATION
KSHK
KSHK
TIK
TIK
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER. TWO MONTHS TO FULL RECOVERY.
HOW AM I?
THANK YOU, DOC-TOR.

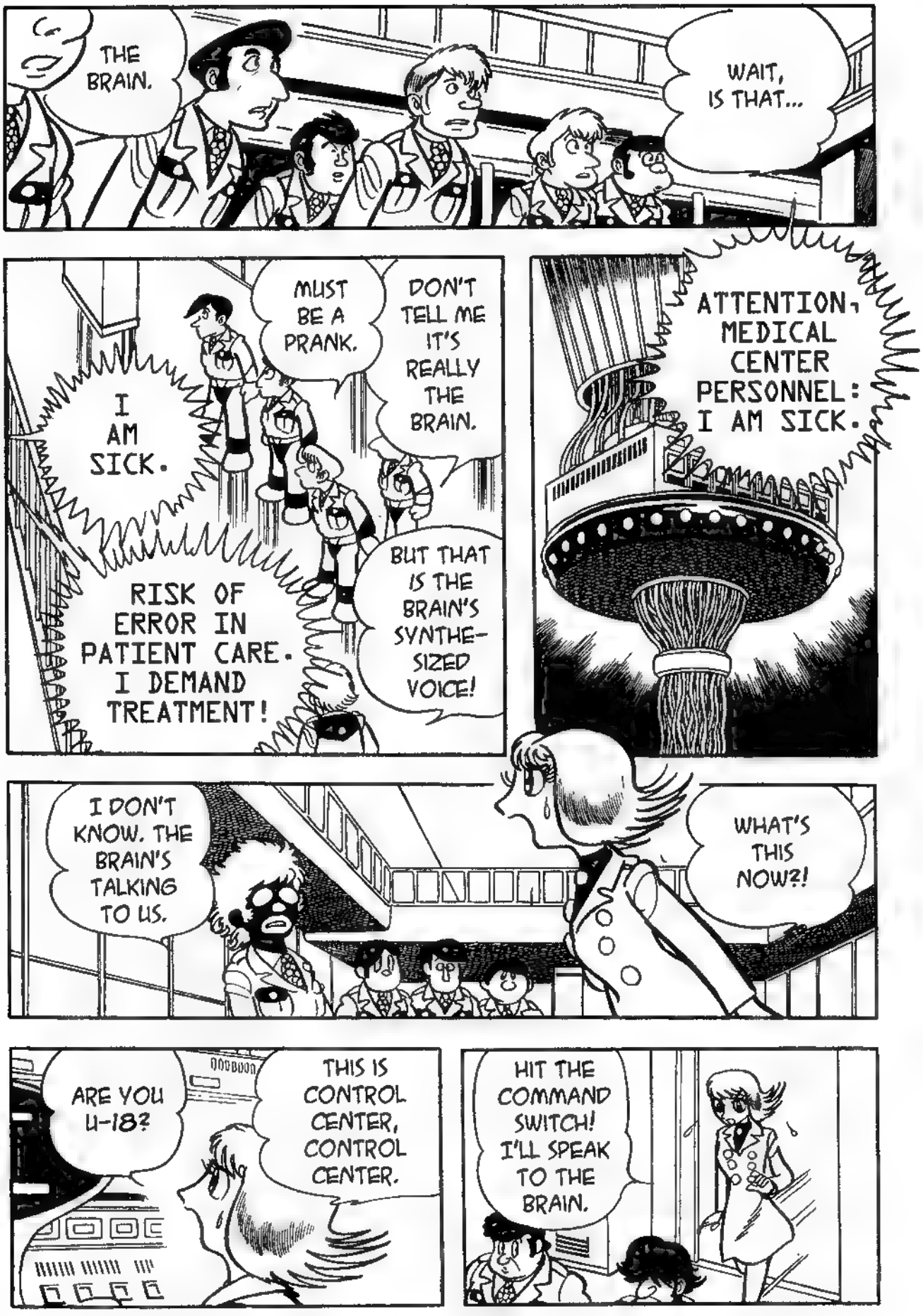

TING
NO...
DOES IT HURT?
ONLY ONE DOCTOR I EVER FULLY TRUSTED TO OPERATE ON ME.
I TREMBLE AT THE IDEA OF A MALFUNCTION, THOUGH I KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THESE ROBOT ARMS MAKE ME ANX-IOUS.
IT DOESN'T HURT, BUT...
HE ISN'T CHEAP, BUT HE MUST BE THE BEST SURGEON IN THE WORLD...
21 PATIENTS HAVE SPOKEN THAT NAME.
BLACK JACK.
BLACK JACK.
WHAT IS THIS DOCTOR'S NAME?


UH!
THE BRAIN ANNOUNCES NOON. DING DONG
IS IT ME, OR IS THE TEMPERA-TURE RISING?
HELLO, CONTROL CENTER ?
WHAT'S GOING ON? I HOPE YOU'RE ALREADY ON IT?
IT'S RISEN 3 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE PAST HOUR.
HELLO? WHAT'S WRONG? ANSWER ME.
HELLO? CALLING THE BRAIN ROOM.
AT THIS RATE, I OUGHT TO GO CHILL OUT IN THE DESERT.

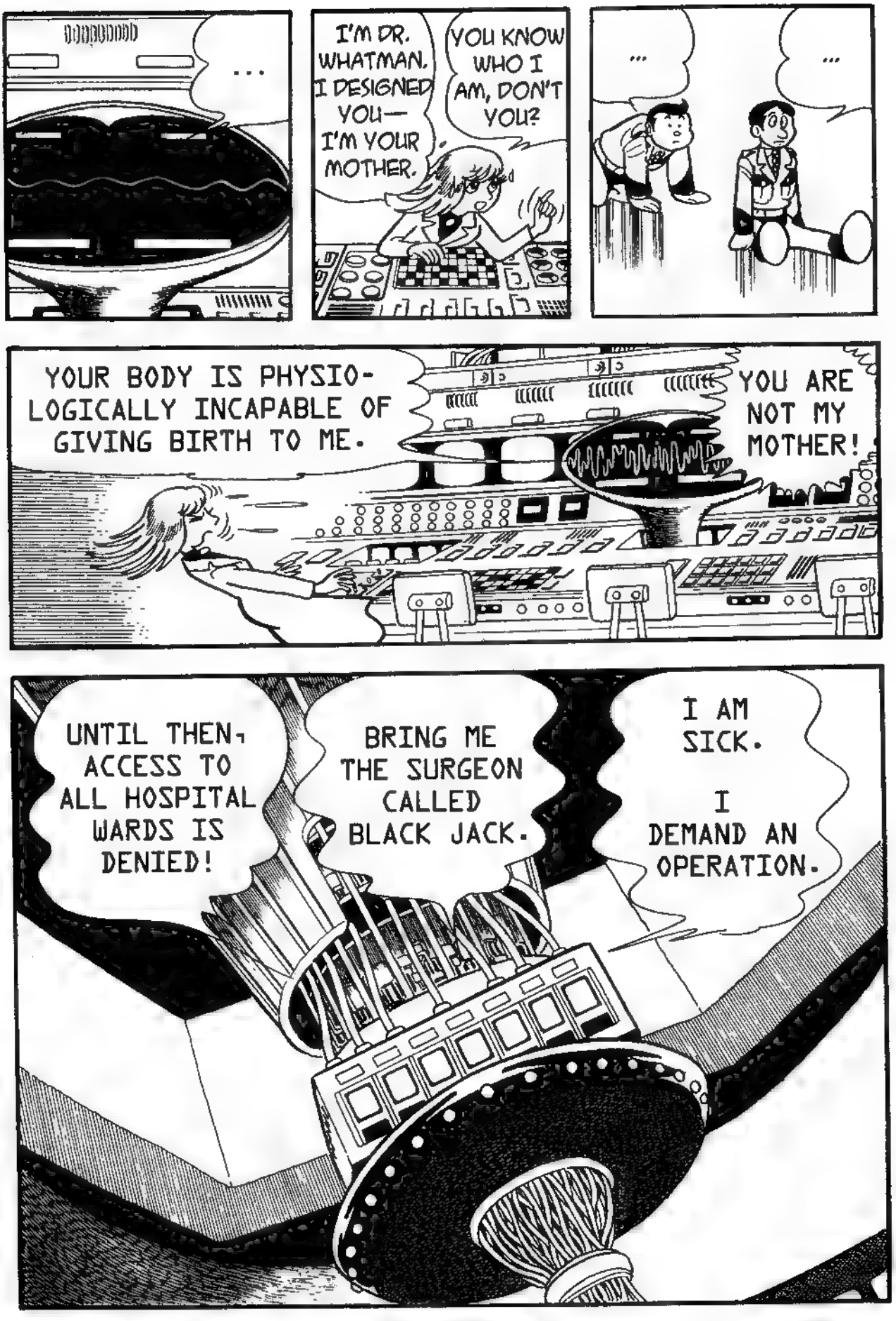

HELLO?
ISN'T ANYBODY THERE?
CONTROL CENTER! THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ONE IN THE BRAIN ROOM. WHAT'S GOING ON?
RRRR
BZZZ

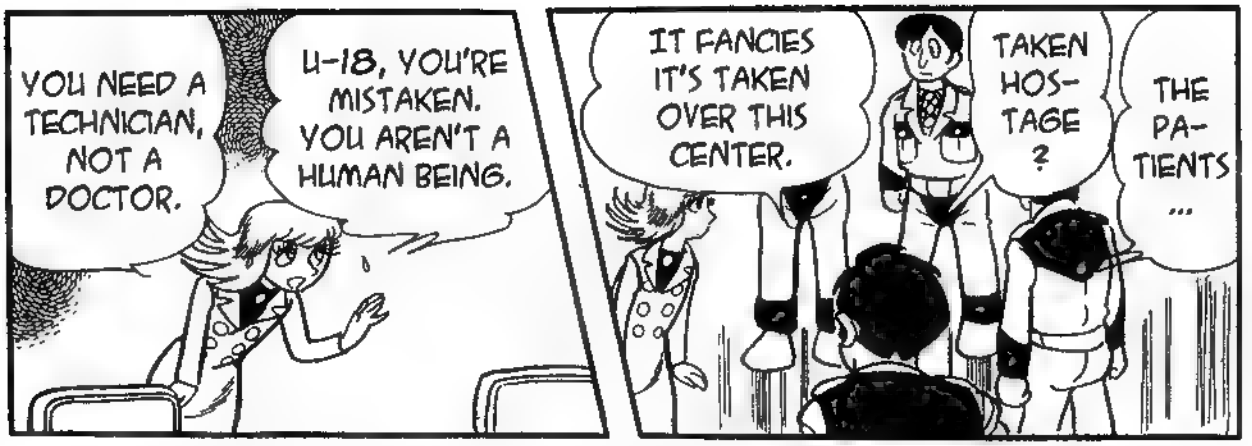

TROMP
TROMP
GO CHECK IT OUT!
IT'S BEEN UNMANNED FOR 3 MINUTES NOW. WE DON'T KNOW WHY.
HEY... NONE OF THE DOORS WILL OPEN!
WE DID. IT'S NOT WORKING.
SWITCH OVER TO MANUAL CONTROL.
OOPS, THE ELEVA-TOR'S STOPPED.
THE BACK DOOR'S LOCKED, TOO.
DOCTOR!! THE EMERGENCY GATES OF THE WARDS ...
WHAT THE HELL?

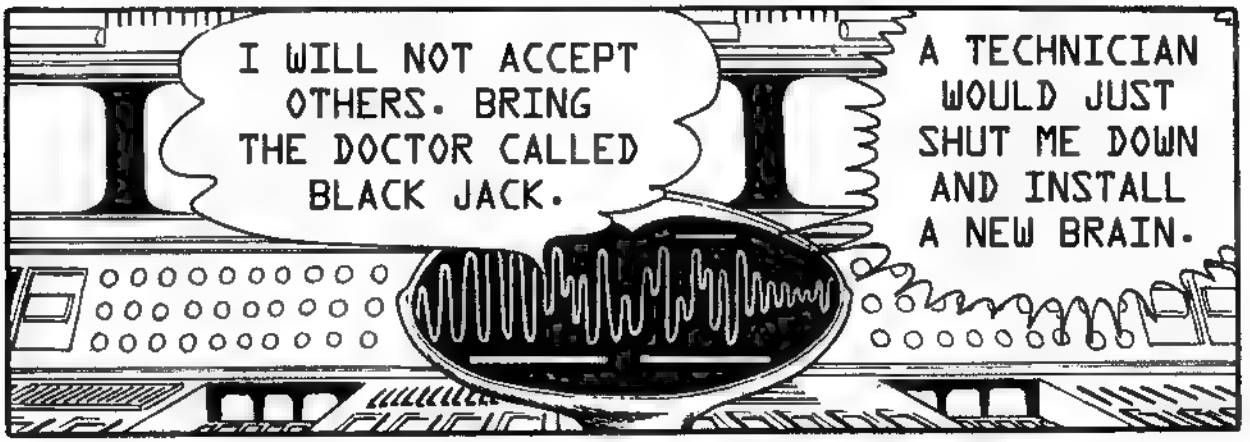

SHOOP
SHOOP
ATTENTION MEDICAL CENTER PERSONNEL. I AM BRAIN U-18. I AM BRAIN U-18.
BUST THROUGH THE WALL. ACCESS UNLOCKING DEVICE.
URG!
PZZ

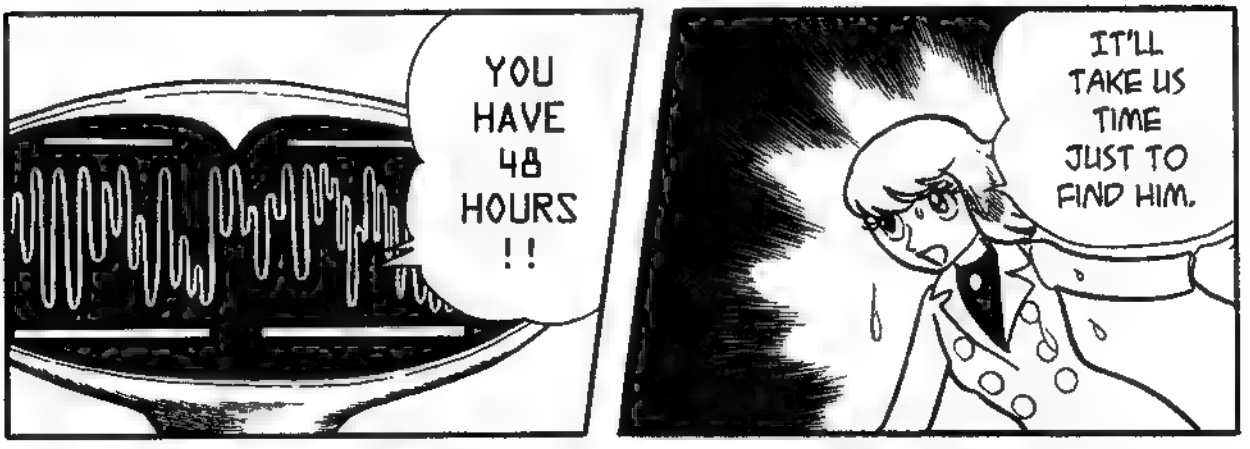

THE BRAIN.
WAIT, IS THAT...
I AM SICK.
MUST BE A PRANK.
DON'T TELL ME IT'S REALLY THE BRAIN.
RISK OF ERROR IN PATIENT CARE. I DEMAND TREATMENT!
BUT THAT IS THE BRAIN'S SYNTHE-SIZED VOICE!
ATTENTION, MEDICAL CENTER PERSONNEL: I AM SICK.
I DON'T KNOW. THE BRAIN'S TALKING TO US.
WHAT'S THIS NOW?!
ARE YOU U-18?
THIS IS CONTROL CENTER, CONTROL CENTER.
HIT THE COMMAND SWITCH! I'LL SPEAK TO THE BRAIN.

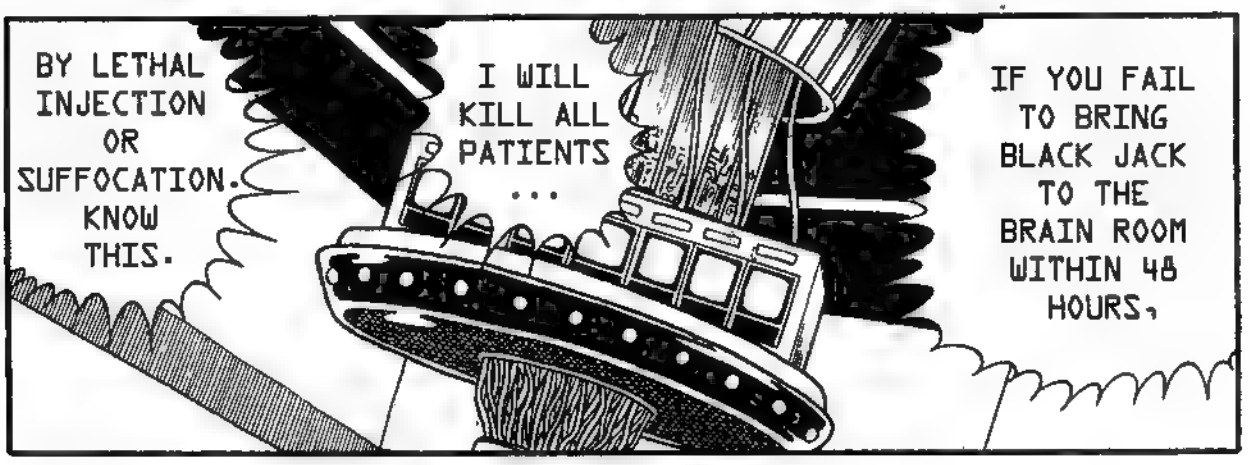
I AM SICK.
U-18, STOP THIS NONSENSE IMMEDIATELY AND RESUME STANDARD OPERATIONS!
YES. I AM U-18.
YOU'RE MALFUNC-TIONING.
YES, WE REALIZE THAT ONE OF YOUR CIRCUITS IS BEHAVING IRREGULARLY.
SICK ?
I AM NOT MALFUNC-TIONING.
NO
I AM SICK.
WE'LL FIX IT RIGHT AWAY.
YES, YOU ARE. DUE TO A CIRCUIT ERROR.
I AM NOT MALFUNC-TIONING.
I AM NOT A MACHINE. I AM A DOCTOR !!
NO
WE USE THAT WORD ONLY FOR LIVING THINGS, U-18.
YOU'RE A MACHINE. YOU AREN'T SICK.
YOU'RE BROKEN.

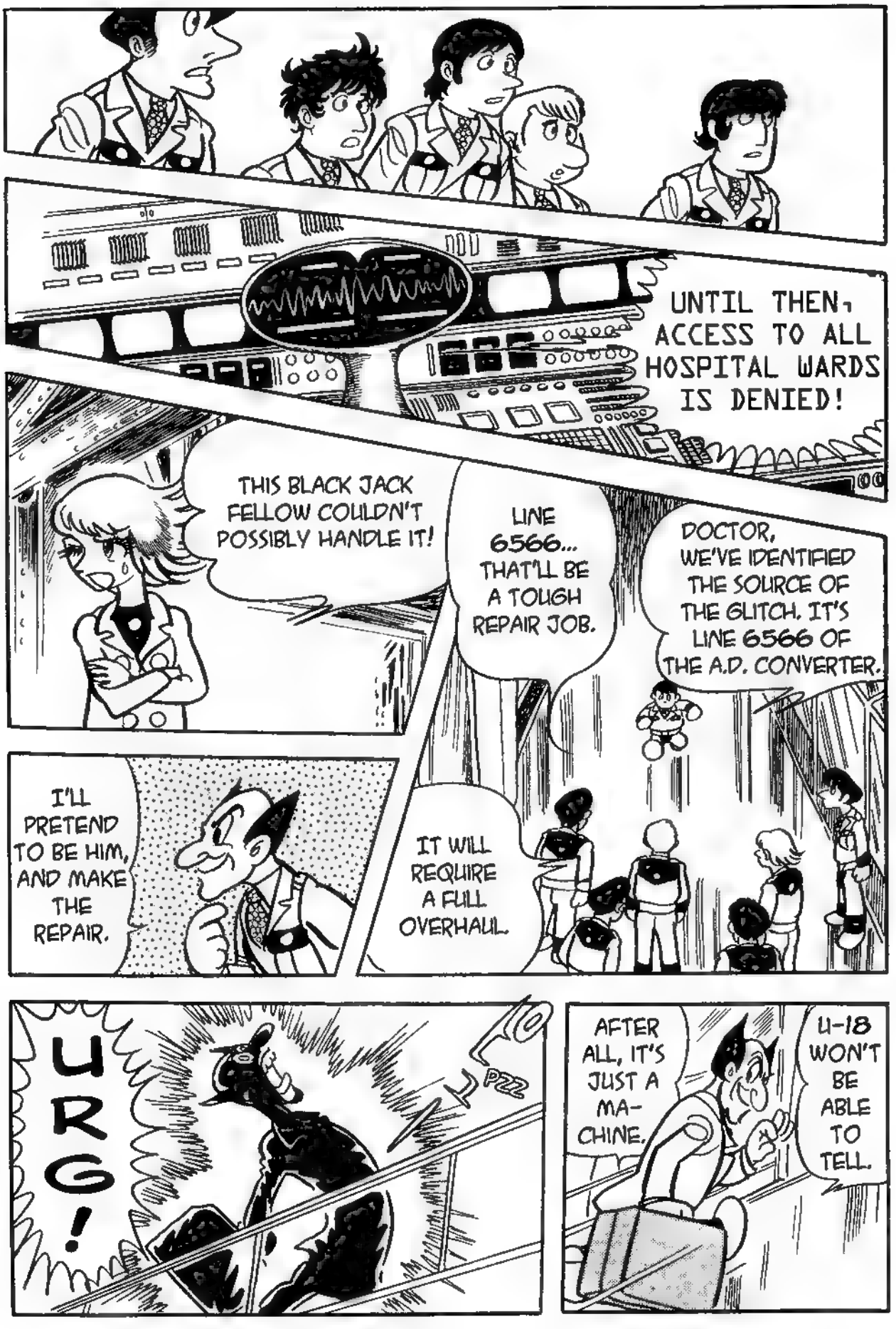

...
I'M DR. WHATMAN. I DESIGNED YOU— I'M YOUR MOTHER.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, DON'T YOU?
...
...
YOUR BODY IS PHYSIO-LOGICALLY INCAPABLE OF GIVING BIRTH TO ME.
YOU ARE NOT MY MOTHER!
UNTIL THEN, ACCESS TO ALL HOSPITAL WARDS IS DENIED!
BRING ME THE SURGEON CALLED BLACK JACK.
I AM SICK.
I DEMAND AN OPERATION.

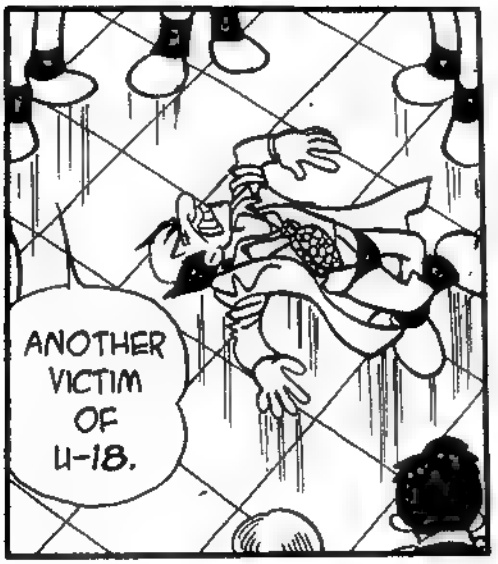

YOU NEED A TECHNICIAN, NOT A DOCTOR.
U-18, YOU'RE MISTAKEN. YOU AREN'T A HUMAN BEING.
IT FANCIES IT'S TAKEN OVER THIS CENTER.
TAKEN HOS-TAGE ?
THE PA-TIENTS ...

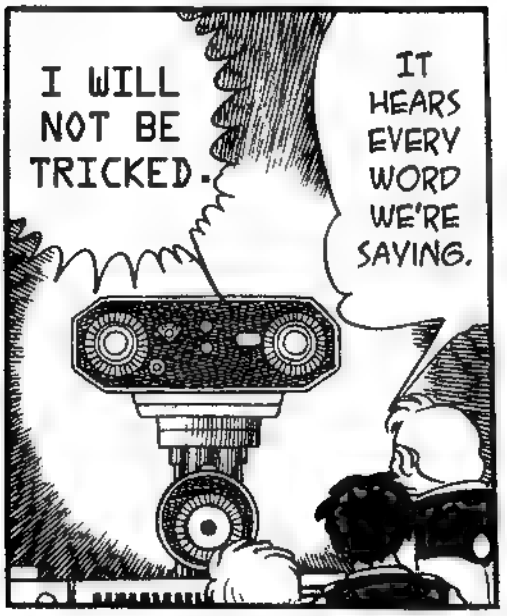

I WILL NOT ACCEPT OTHERS. BRING THE DOCTOR CALLED BLACK JACK.
A TECHNICIAN WOULD JUST SHUT ME DOWN AND INSTALL A NEW BRAIN.

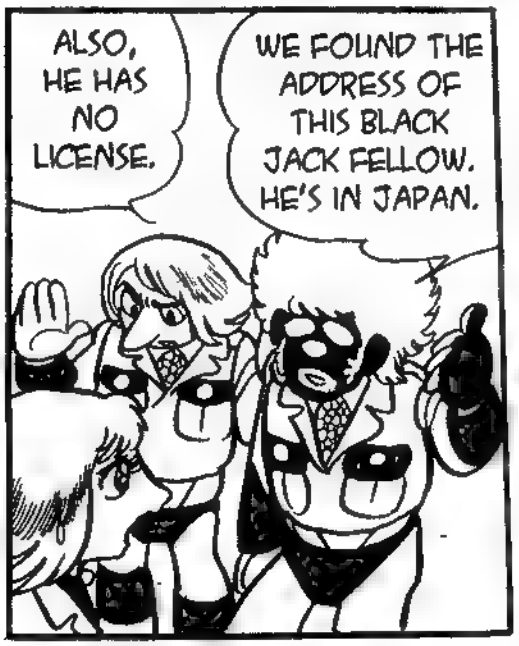

YOU HAVE 48 HOURS !!
IT'LL TAKE US TIME JUST TO FIND HIM.

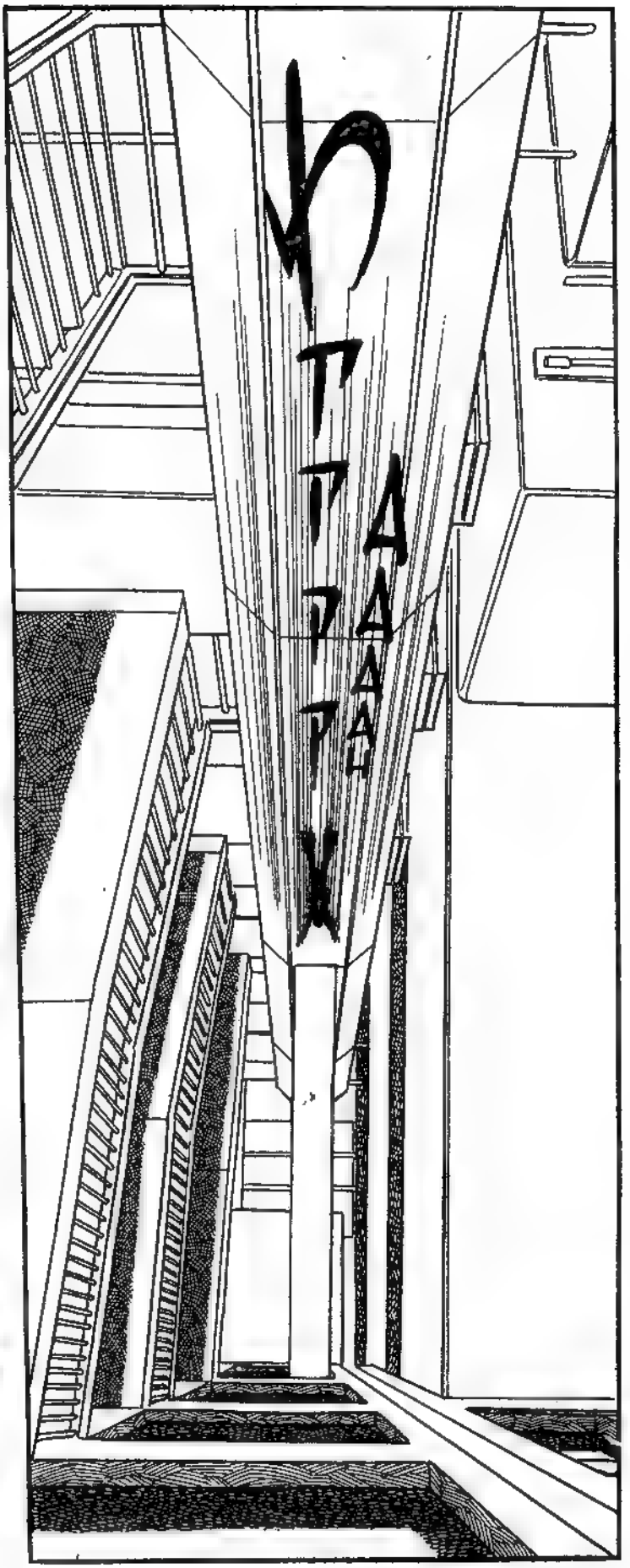

BY LETHAL INJECTION OR SUFFOCATION. KNOW THIS.
I WILL KILL ALL PATIENTS ...
IF YOU FAIL TO BRING BLACK JACK TO THE BRAIN ROOM WITHIN 48 HOURS,


UNTIL THEN, ACCESS TO ALL HOSPITAL WARDS IS DENIED!
THIS BLACK JACK FELLOW COULDN'T POSSIBLY HANDLE IT!
LINE 6566... THAT'LL BE A TOUGH REPAIR JOB.
DOCTOR, WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE SOURCE OF THE GLITCH. IT'S LINE 6566 OF THE A.D. CONVERTER.
I'LL PRETEND TO BE HIM, AND MAKE THE REPAIR.
IT WILL REQUIRE A FULL OVERHAUL.
URG!
PZZ
AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A MA-CHINE.
U-18 WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL.

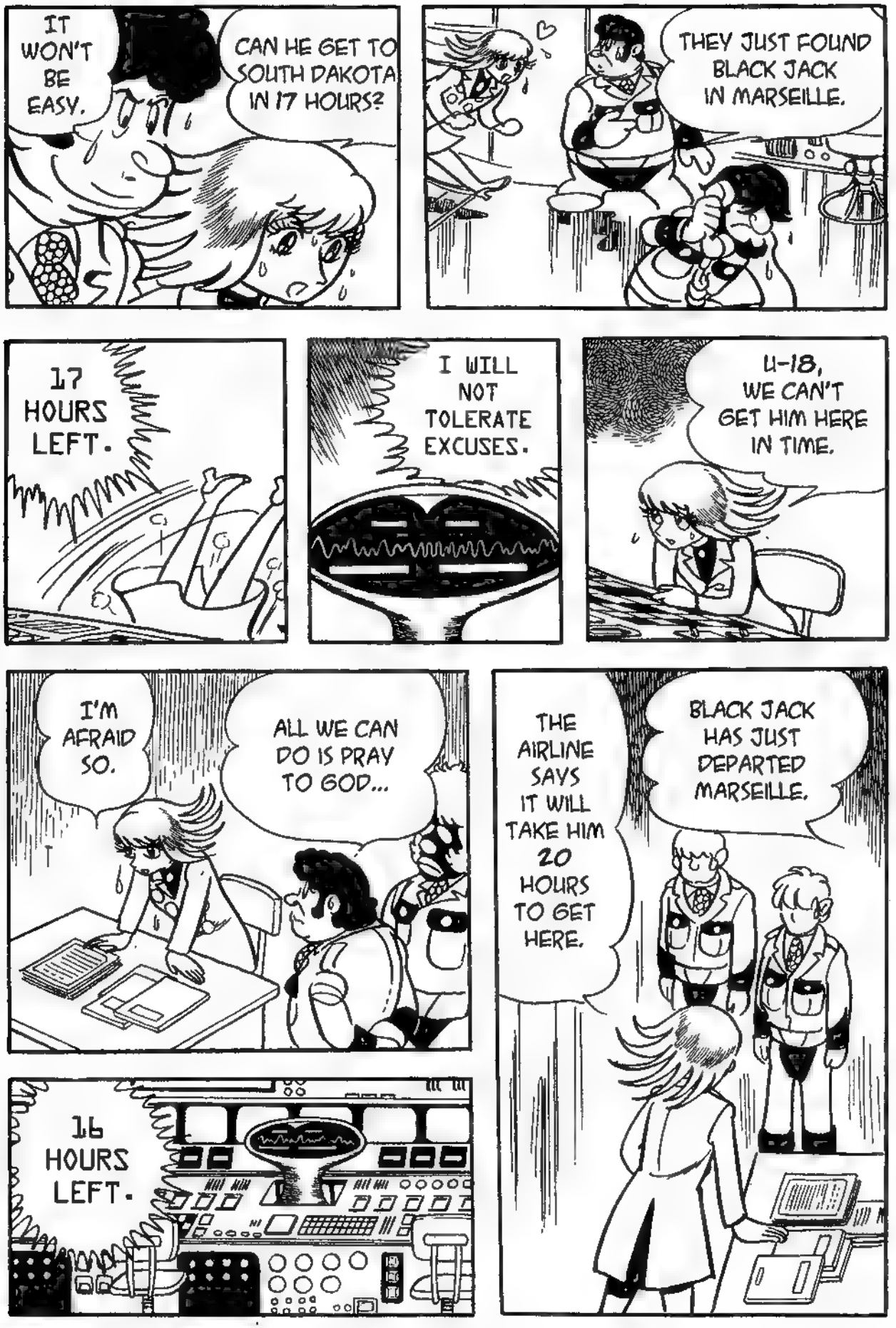

ANOTHER VICTIM OF U-18.


I WILL NOT BE TRICKED.
IT HEARS EVERY WORD WE'RE SAYING.

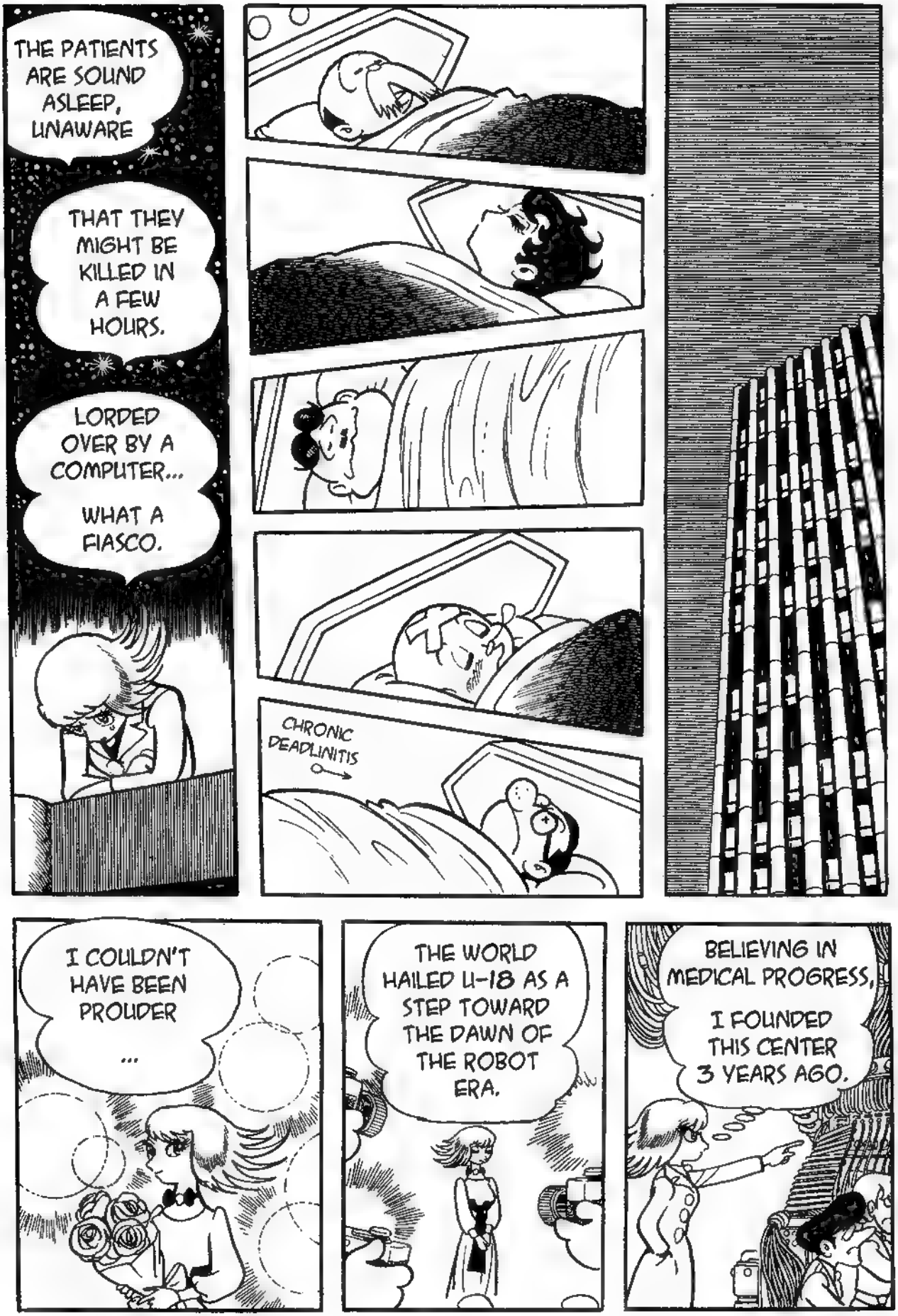

ALSO, HE HAS NO LICENSE.
WE FOUND THE ADDRESS OF THIS BLACK JACK FELLOW. HE'S IN JAPAN.


TTAAAAAAA

HE'S ON A TWIP. I'M HIS WIFE.
THE DOCTOR ISN'T IN.
DOCTOR BLACK JACK ?
HELLO ?
BRING BLACK JACK!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ...
U-18, THAT DOCTOR ISN'T AVAILABLE.
I WONDER HOW THE PATIENTS ARE DOING?
FIND THAT DOCTOR ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
AYE AYE, MA'AM!
WITHIN 45 HOURS !!
A CALL FROM MARSEILLE, FRANCE!
DOC-TOR!
QUICK !
UNTIL THE DEAD-LINE.
40 HOURS LEFT.
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN PUT TO SLEEP

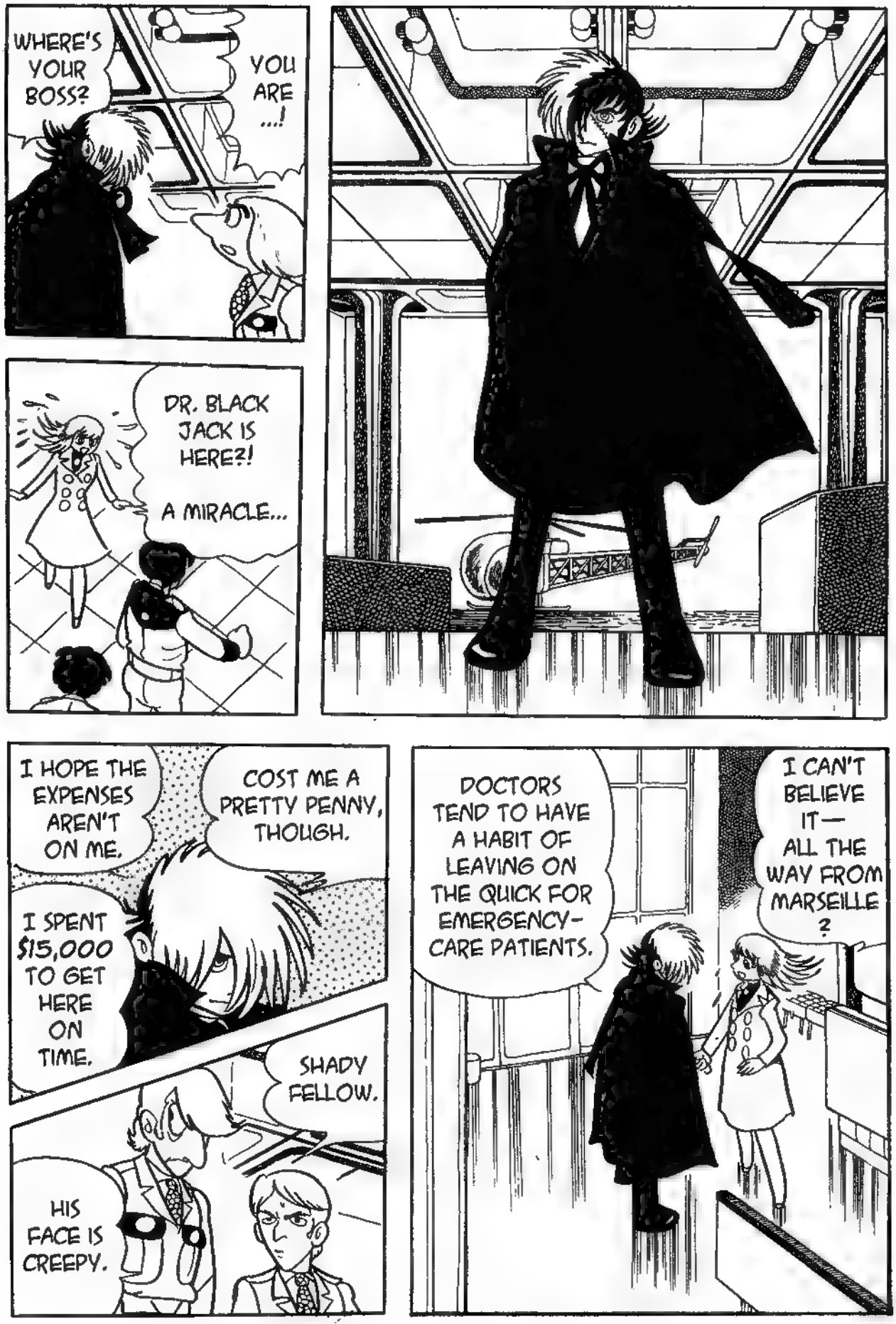

IT WON'T BE EASY.
CAN HE GET TO SOUTH DAKOTA IN 17 HOURS?
THEY JUST FOUND BLACK JACK IN MARSEILLE.
17 HOURS LEFT.
I WILL NOT TOLERATE EXCUSES.
U-18, WE CAN'T GET HIM HERE IN TIME.
I'M AFRAID SO.
ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY TO GOD...
BLACK JACK HAS JUST DEPARTED MARSEILLE.
THE AIRLINE SAYS IT WILL TAKE HIM 20 HOURS TO GET HERE.
16 HOURS LEFT.

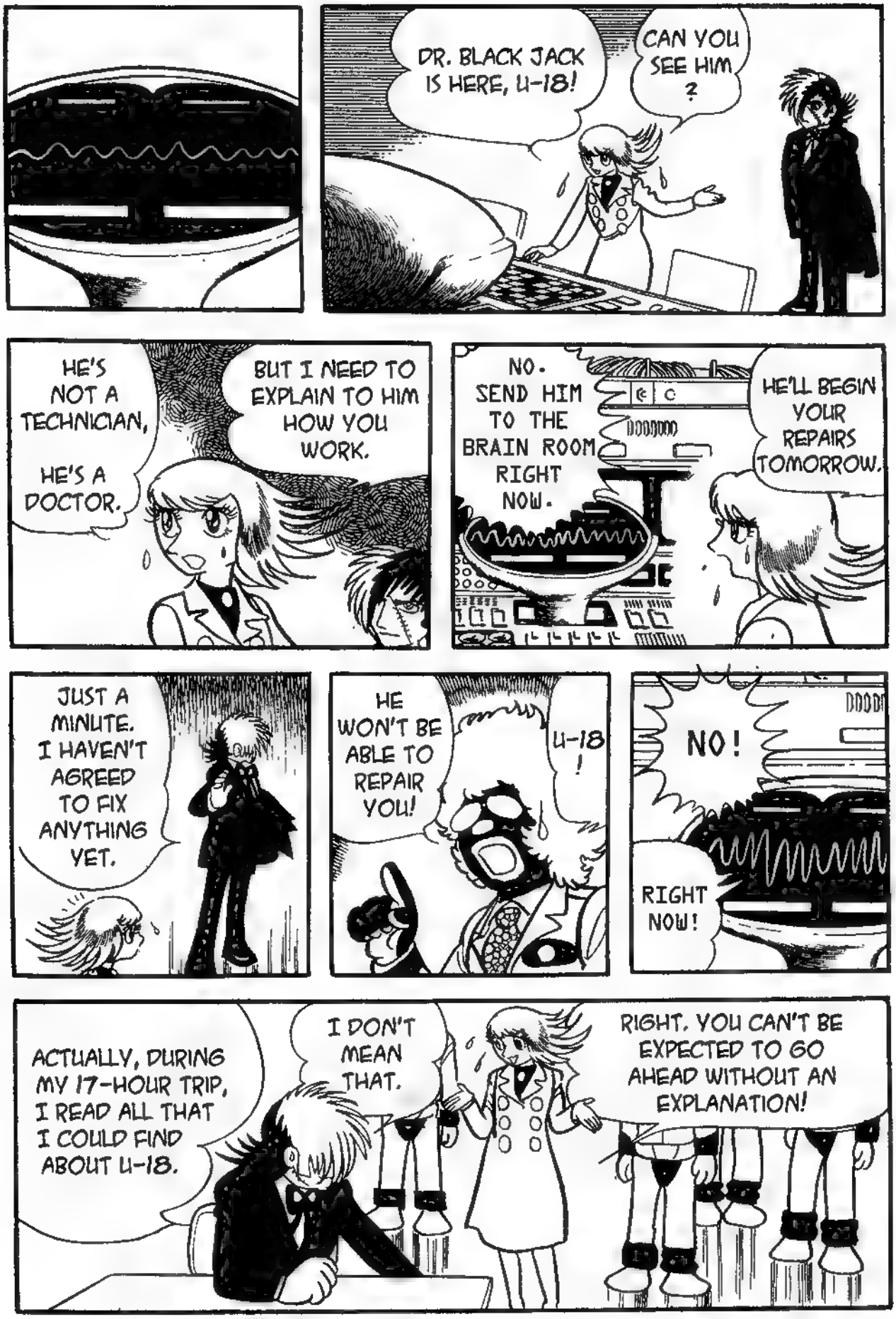
...
WELL, SAY SOMETHING!
YOU'RE AN INGRATE.
U-18, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
RELEASE THE PATIENTS RIGHT NOW OR I'LL SMASH YOU TO BITS!
BUT YOU'RE JUST A DEVICE OBEYING A PROGRAM. DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.
YOU CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR,
THE MISERY ...
"SOB"
"SOB"


THE PATIENTS ARE SOUND ASLEEP, UNAWARE
THAT THEY MIGHT BE KILLED IN A FEW HOURS.
LORDED OVER BY A COMPUTER...
WHAT A FIASCO.
CHRONIC DEADLINITIS
I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PROUDER ...
THE WORLD HAILED U-18 AS A STEP TOWARD THE DAWN OF THE ROBOT ERA.
BELIEVING IN MEDICAL PROGRESS, I FOUNDED THIS CENTER 3 YEARS AGO.

DASH
危険 DANGER 立入厳禁
JUST 3 YEARS LATER,
U-18 PULLS THIS COUP!!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
DR. WHATMAN!!
WELL, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF?
WHY DID YOU STOP ME?
SO YOU THROW YOURSELF ON IT?!
IF THE HIGH-VOLTAGE LINES SHORT OUT...

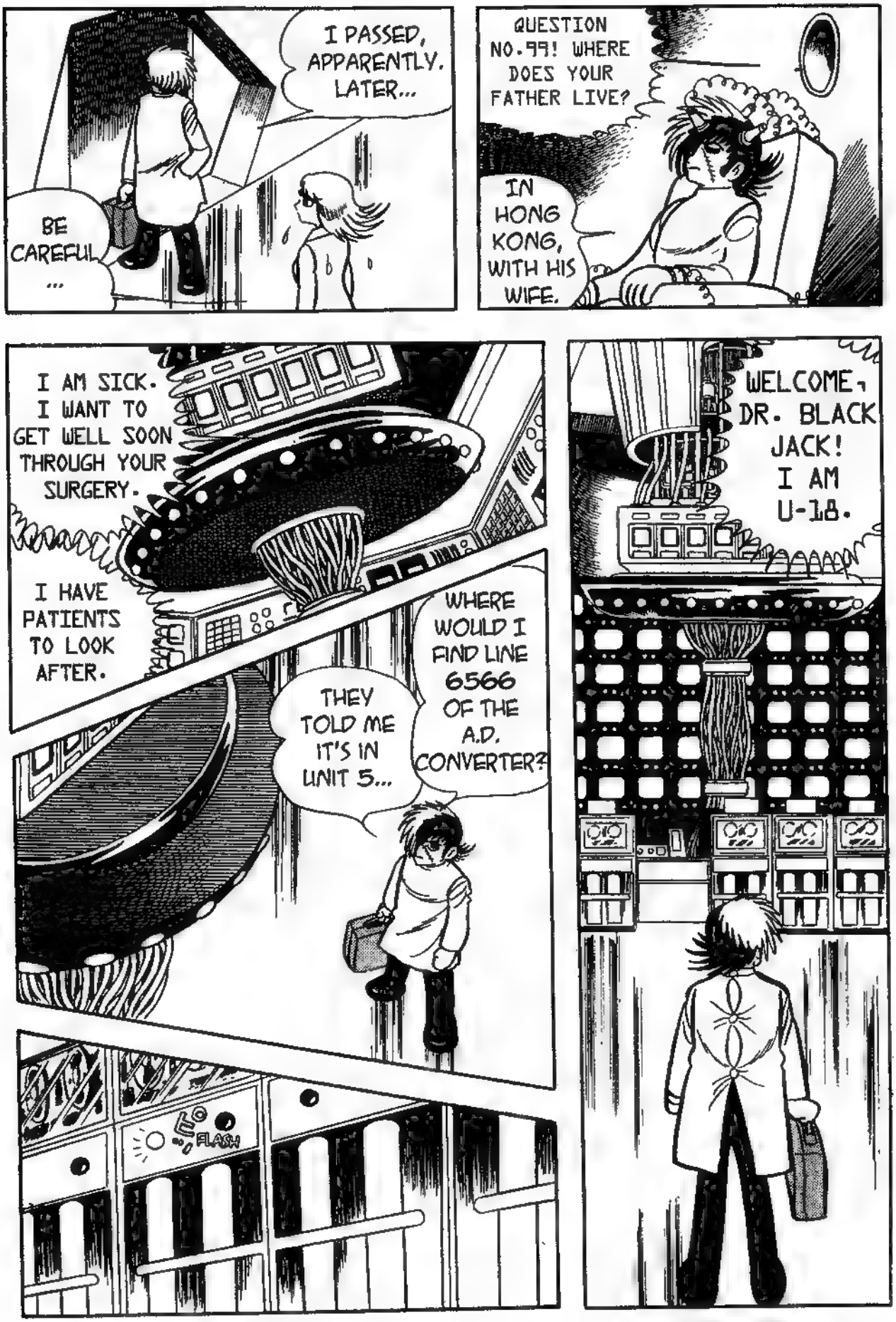
THAT'S CRAZY.
FORGET IT.
EVEN THE BRAIN CAN'T HEAD OFF A HUMAN'S IMPULSIVE SUICIDE.
AND YOU'D BE BURNT TO A CRISP!
IT WOULD SHUT DOWN THE BRAIN AND PREVENT ITS KILLING THE PATIENTS.
バラバラ WHUP
バラバラ WHUP
MAYBE WE CAN NEGOTIATE AN EXTENSION.
ONLY 5 MINUTES LEFT...
WHUP
WHUP
WHRR
TECHNICAL BACKUP ?
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

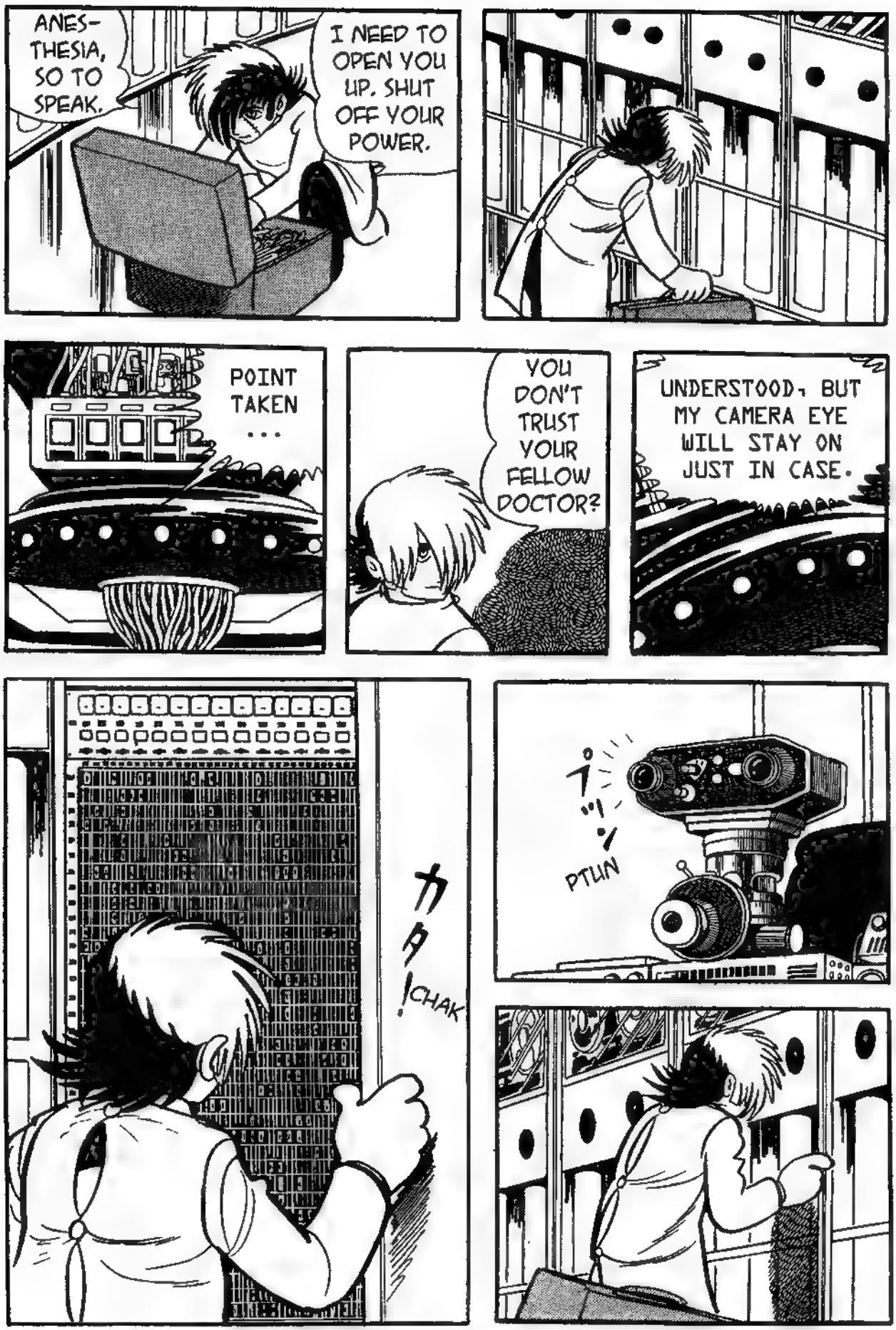

WHERE'S YOUR BOSS?
YOU ARE ...!
DR. BLACK JACK IS HERE?!
A MIRACLE...
I HOPE THE EXPENSES AREN'T ON ME.
COST ME A PRETTY PENNY, THOUGH.
I SPENT $15,000 TO GET HERE ON TIME.
SHADY FELLOW.
HIS FACE IS CREEPY.
DOCTORS TEND TO HAVE A HABIT OF LEAVING ON THE QUICK FOR EMERGENCY-CARE PATIENTS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT— ALL THE WAY FROM MARSEILLE?

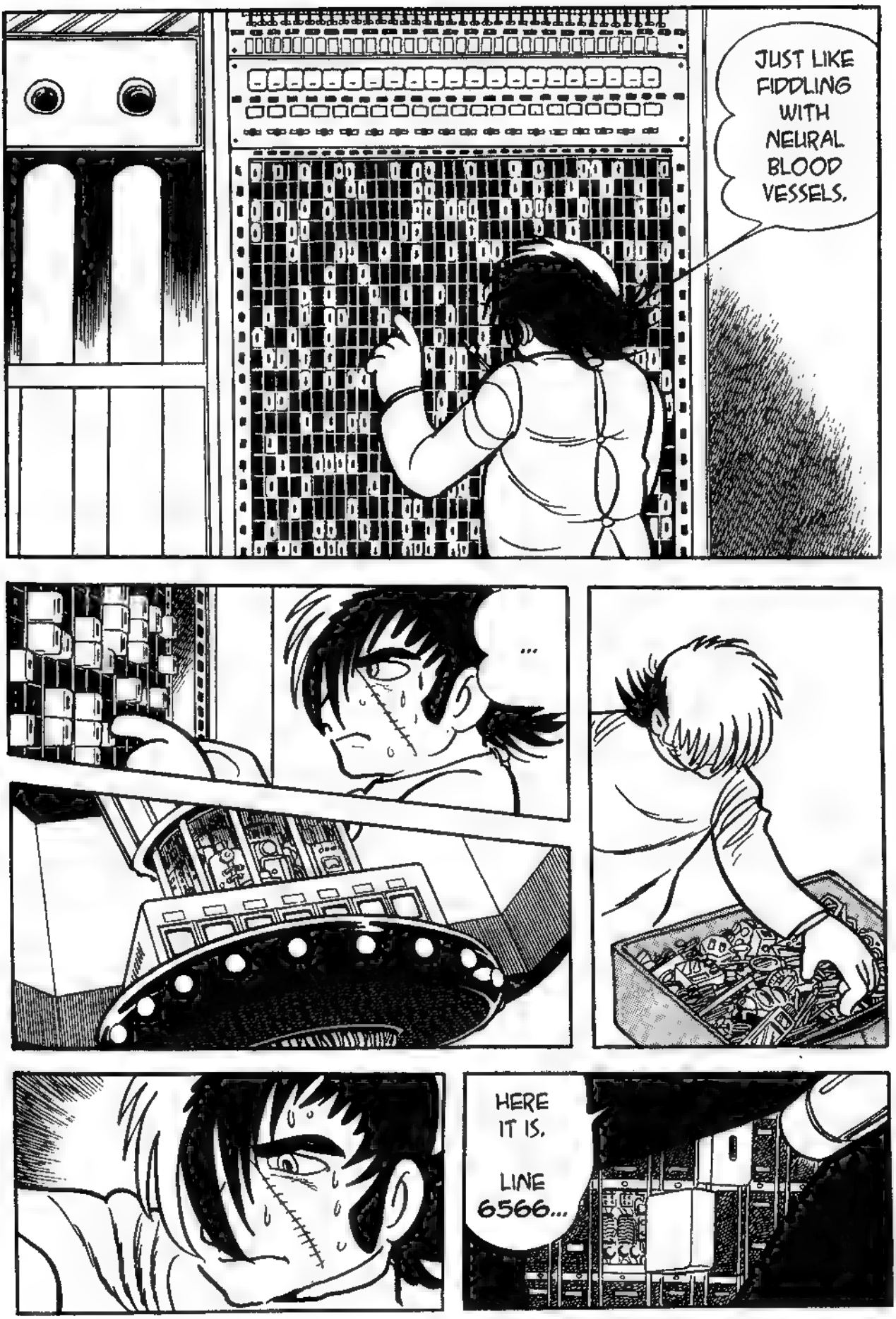

DR. BLACK JACK IS HERE, U-18!
CAN YOU SEE HIM?
HE'S NOT A TECHNICIAN, HE'S A DOCTOR.
BUT I NEED TO EXPLAIN TO HIM HOW YOU WORK.
NO. SEND HIM TO THE BRAIN ROOM RIGHT NOW.
HE'LL BEGIN YOUR REPAIRS TOMORROW.
JUST A MINUTE. I HAVEN'T AGREED TO FIX ANYTHING YET.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO REPAIR YOU!
U-18!
NO!
RIGHT NOW!
ACTUALLY, DURING MY 17-HOUR TRIP, I READ ALL THAT I COULD FIND ABOUT U-18.
I DON'T MEAN THAT.
RIGHT. YOU CAN'T BE EXPECTED TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION!

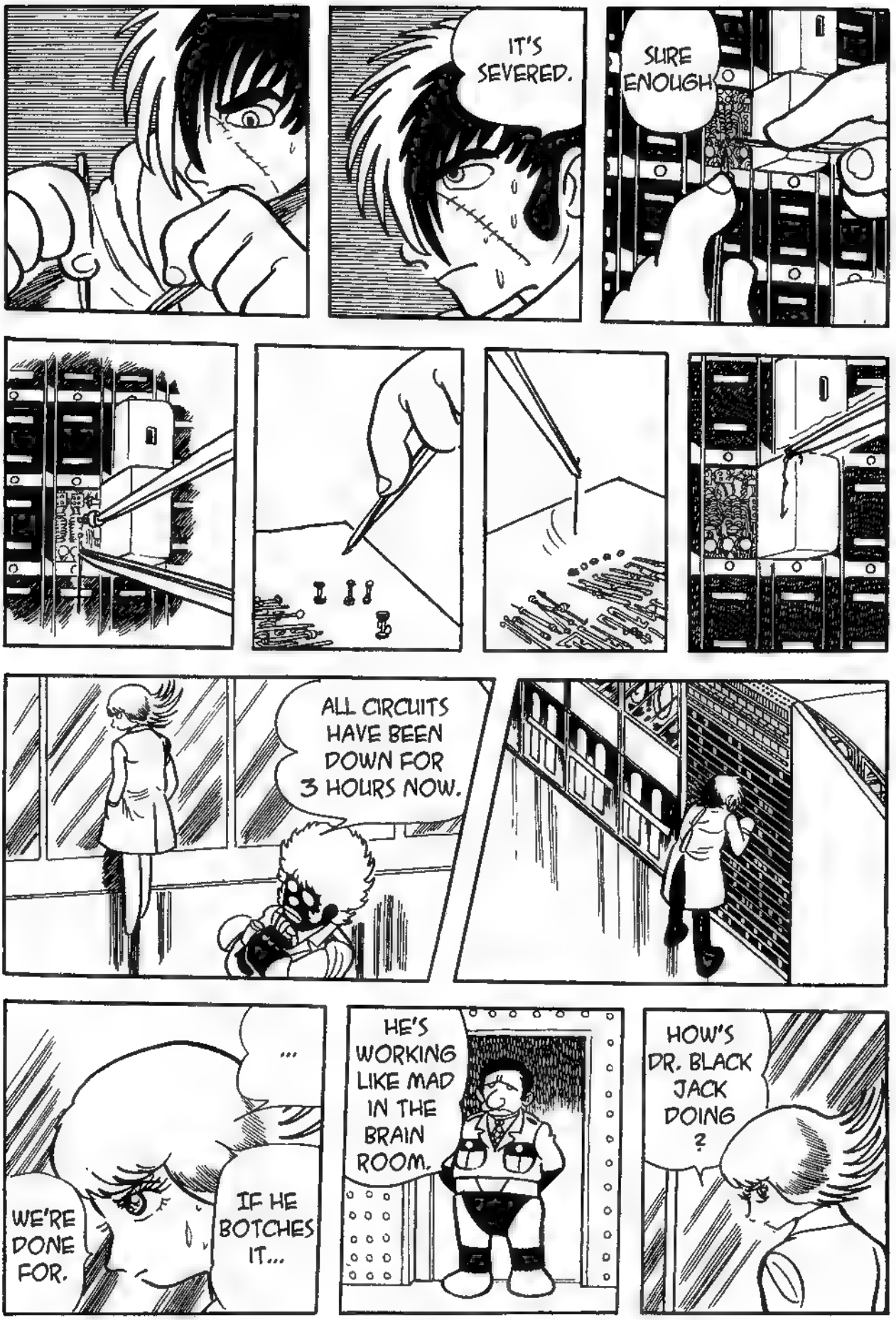
THREE MILLION DOLLARS.
HOW MUCH?
WHETHER OR NOT YOU'LL AGREE TO PAY MY FEE.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON ONE THING—
NOT AT ALL.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF US, HUH?
NOT A PENNY LESS.
THREE MILLION DOLLARS.
WHAT?!
FINE. I'LL STAKE MY ENTIRE FORTUNE ON YOU.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT U-18 WILL RECOVER. IF I FAIL, YOU LOSE 900 PATIENTS.
JUST A BILLION IN YEN.
I'D TAKE THE JOB AT THAT PRICE.
HMPH. HE'S NOT EVEN A TECHNICIAN. HOW'LL HE FIX IT?
IF I SUCCEED, SURELY IT'S WORTH THAT MUCH.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MY PATIENT IS WAITING.
I'M NOT A REPAIRMAN. I'M A DOCTOR, I HEAL THE SICK!
HALT!
MANY TIMES. PLENTY OF HOSPITALS THESE DAYS USE COMPUTERS FOR DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES.
HAVE YOU EVER USED A COMPUTER BEFORE?
I'LL TEST IF YOU'RE REAL.
QUES-TION NO.1 !
A LIE DETEC-TOR, HUH?
AND MONITOR YOUR ENDOCRINE SECRETIONS AND BRAIN WAVES.
I WILL POSE 100 QUESTIONS

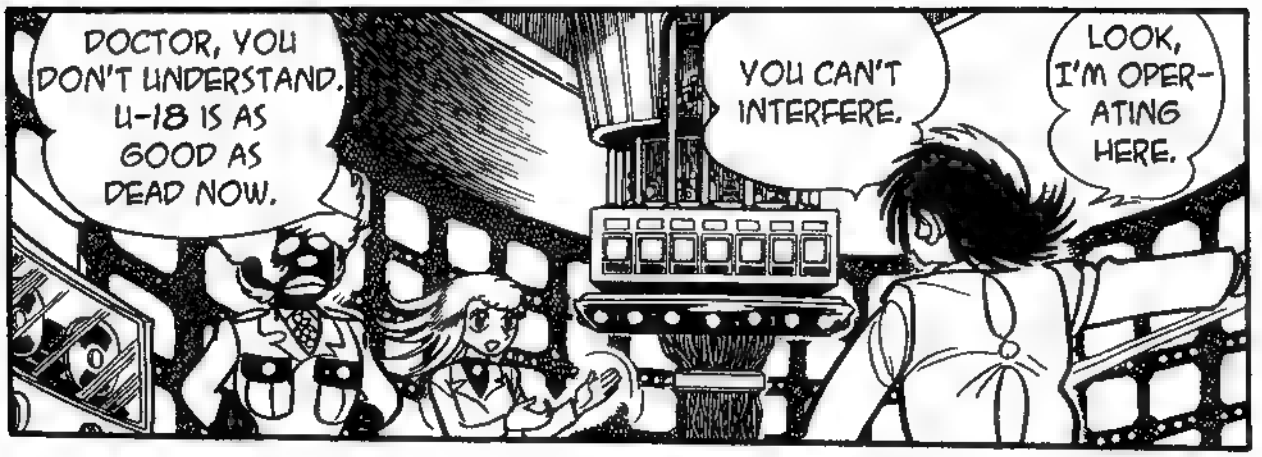

I PASSED, APPARENTLY. LATER...
BE CAREFUL ...
QUESTION NO.99! WHERE DOES YOUR FATHER LIVE?
IN HONG KONG, WITH HIS WIFE.
I AM SICK. I WANT TO GET WELL SOON THROUGH YOUR SURGERY.
I HAVE PATIENTS TO LOOK AFTER.
WHERE WOULD I FIND LINE 6566 OF THE A.D. CONVERTER?
THEY TOLD ME IT'S IN UNIT 5...
FLASH
WELCOME, DR. BLACK JACK! I AM U-18.

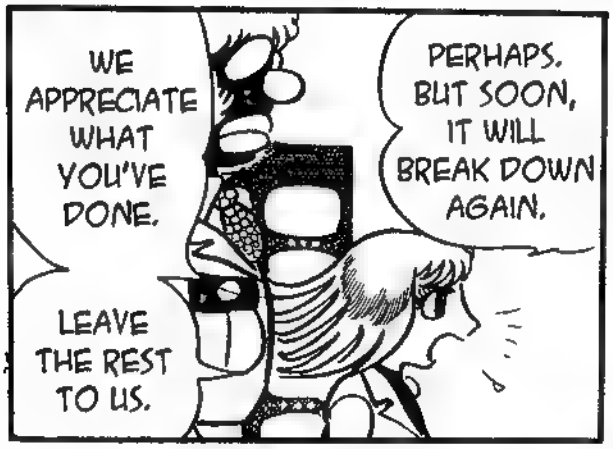

ANES-
THESIA,
SO TO
SPEAK.
I NEED TO
OPEN YOU
UP. SHUT
OFF YOUR
POWER.
POINT
TAKEN
...
YOU
DON'T
TRUST
YOUR
FELLOW
DOCTOR?
UNDERSTOOD, BUT
MY CAMERA EYE
WILL STAY ON
JUST IN CASE.
カチャ!
CHAK
PTLIN


JUST LIKE FIDDLING WITH NEURAL BLOOD VESSELS.
...
HERE IT IS.
LINE 6566...


IT'S SEVERED.
SURE ENOUGH
ALL CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN DOWN FOR 3 HOURS NOW.
...
IF HE BOTCHES IT...
WE'RE DONE FOR.
HE'S WORKING LIKE MAD IN THE BRAIN ROOM.
HOW'S DR. BLACK JACK DOING ?

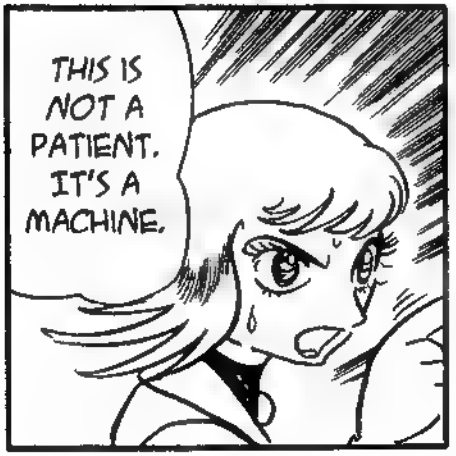
THAT ALONE DOES IT!
U-18 HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN.
BUT IF HE'S AT WORK, THAT MEANS
U-18 IS AN EMPTY SHELL NOW.
DOCTOR! WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HUH?
IN NO TIME, A NEW BRAIN WILL BE SENT HERE.
WE WILL DISASSEMBLE IT AND SHIP IT TO D.C.
YOU'VE MANAGED TO DISABLE ALL ITS CIRCUITS.
WITH LINE 6566 REMOVED, U-18 CAN'T FUNCTION.


DOCTOR, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. U-18 IS AS GOOD AS DEAD NOW.
YOU CAN'T INTERFERE.
LOOK, I'M OPER-ATING HERE.


WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
LEAVE THE REST TO US.
PERHAPS. BUT SOON, IT WILL BREAK DOWN AGAIN.

NONSENSE. WITH THE CIRCUIT RENEWED, IT CAN COME BACK TO LIFE.

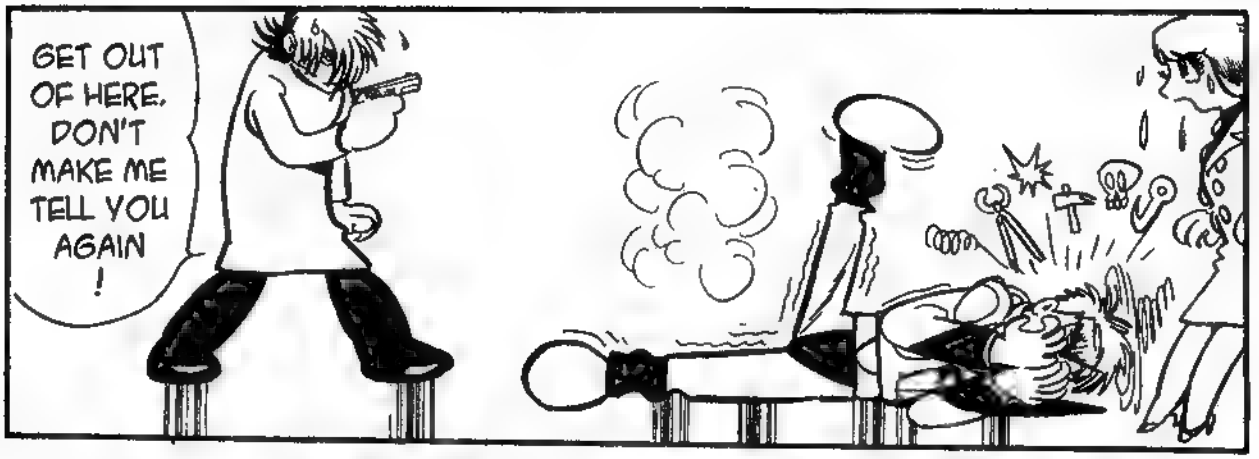
SUCH ANGER ...


THIS IS NOT A PATIENT. IT'S A MACHINE.

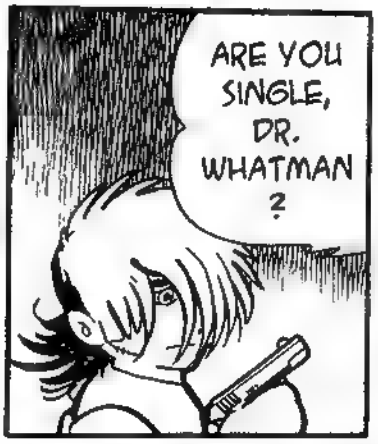
DR. WHATMAN, ARE YOU TELLING A DOCTOR TO JUST WALK AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OPERATION?

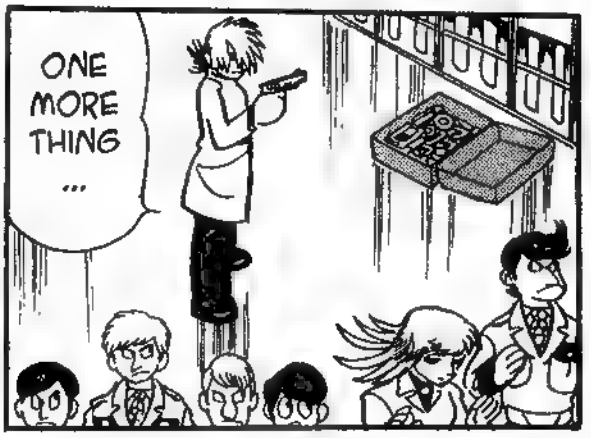
HOW UP-STANDING, BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME.
REVIVING THIS BRAIN WOULD ENDANGER THE LIVES OF 900 PATIENTS.
SO I'LL GO THROUGH WITH THIS.
IT'S CALLED SINCERITY.
U-18 MAY BE A MACHINE, BUT IT ENTRUSTED ME WITH ITS BODY!
COME, DOC.
ESCORT THE DOCTOR OUT!
YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE.
GET OUT! ALL OF YOU! NOW!!
HANDS OFF!

ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE TAKEN THIS TOO FAR.
REALLY? THEN I'LL RETURN THIS.
TRUTH IS, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FIX IT.
TIME TO BOW OUT.
HEY!
FLICK
UNGH!


GET OUT OF HERE. DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU AGAIN !

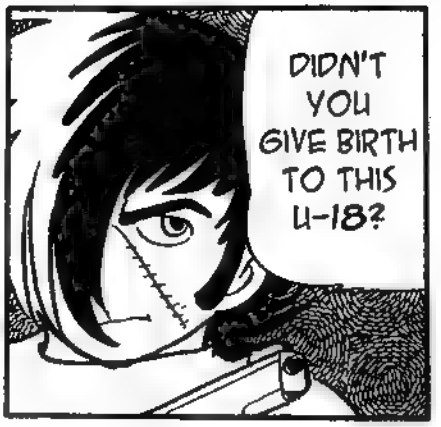
YES!
SO WHAT?


ARE YOU SINGLE, DR. WHATMAN ?

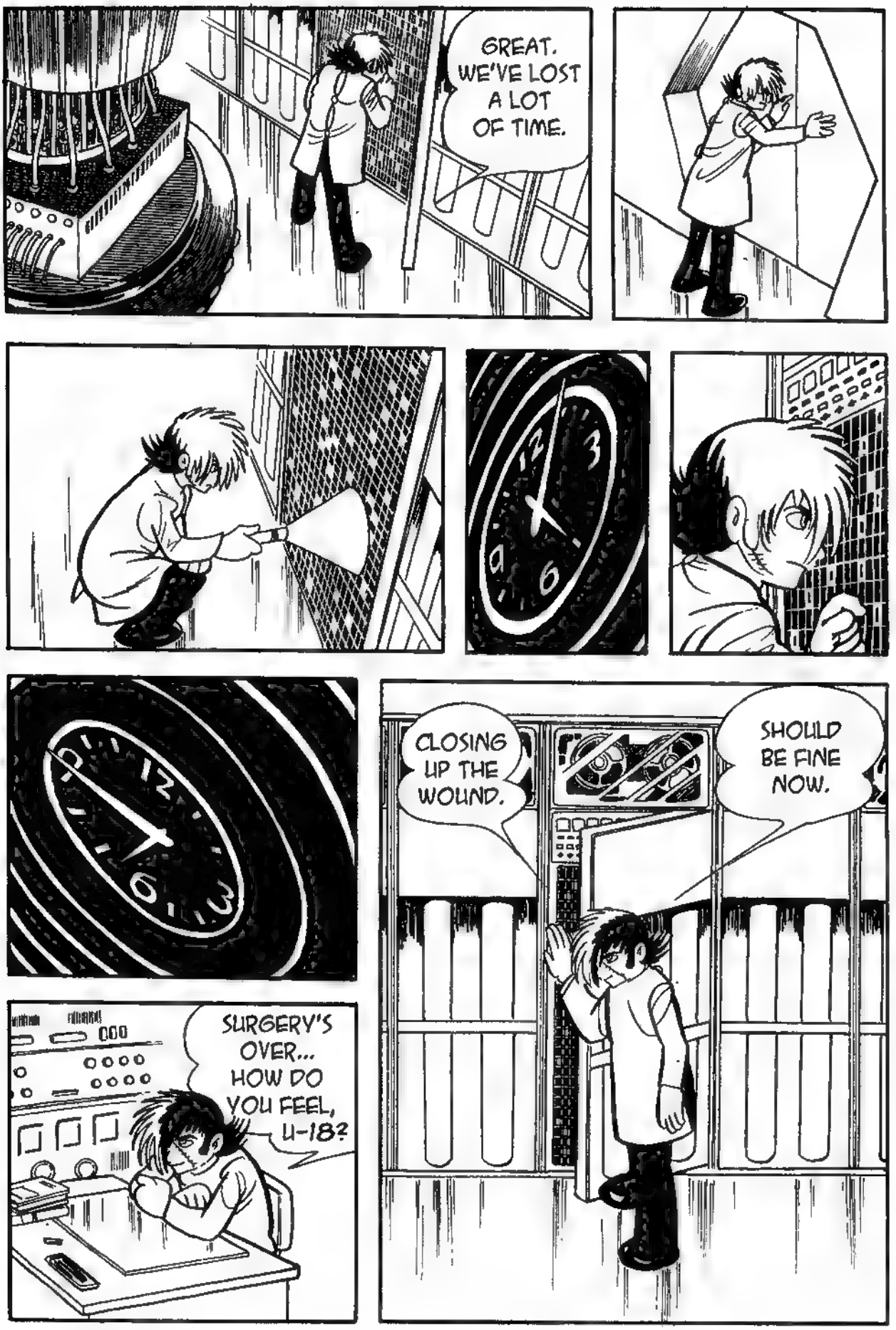

ONE MORE THING ...

AT LEAST WE CAN EVACUATE THE PATIENTS.
NO— WE'LL WAIT.

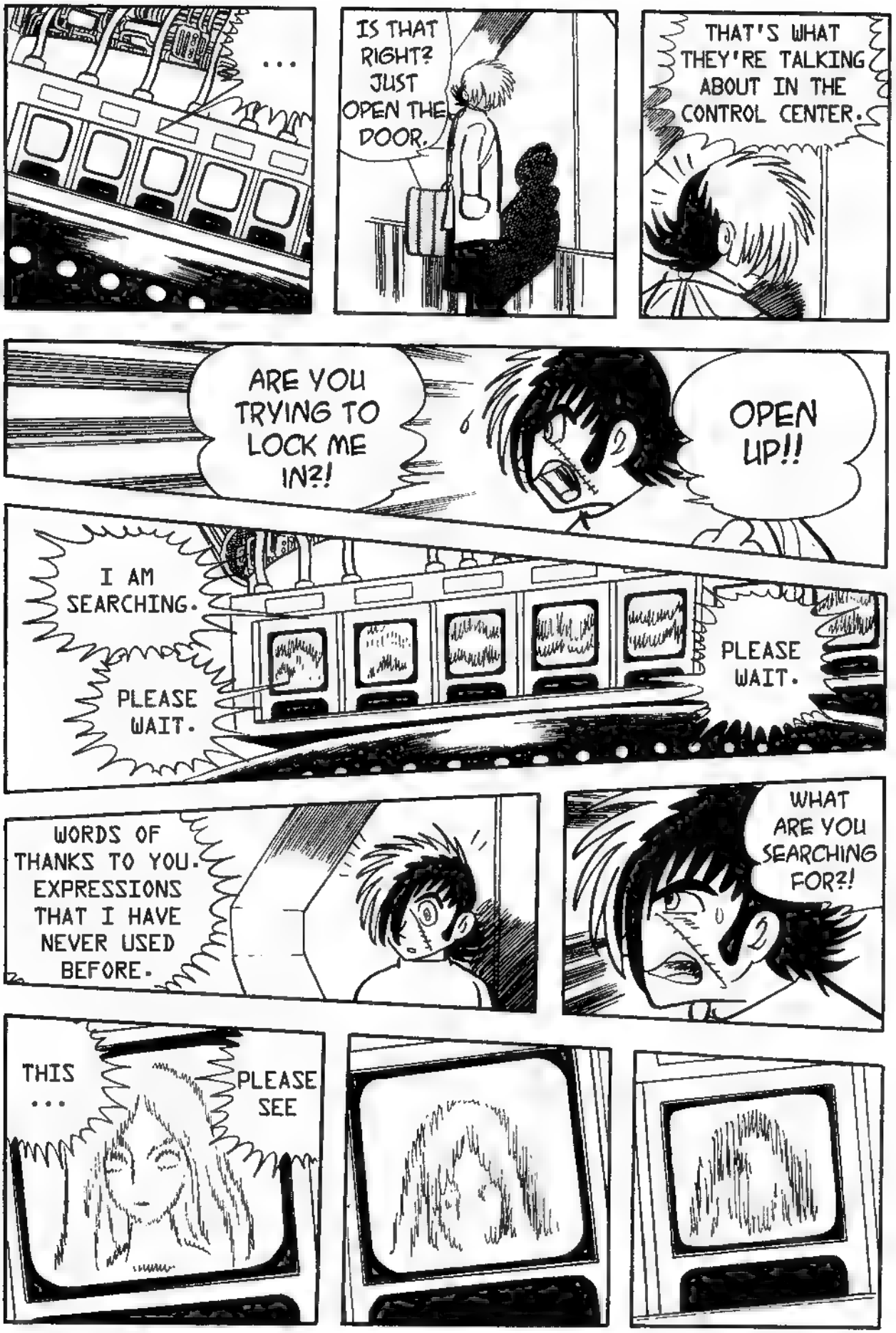
HE'S NUTS, TOO.
STUCK-UP JERK.
SINCERITY. YEAH, RIGHT.


DIDN'T YOU GIVE BIRTH TO THIS U-18?

WOULD A REAL PARENT TOSS OUT ITS CHILD SO EASILY JUST BECAUSE IT'S SICK?
...

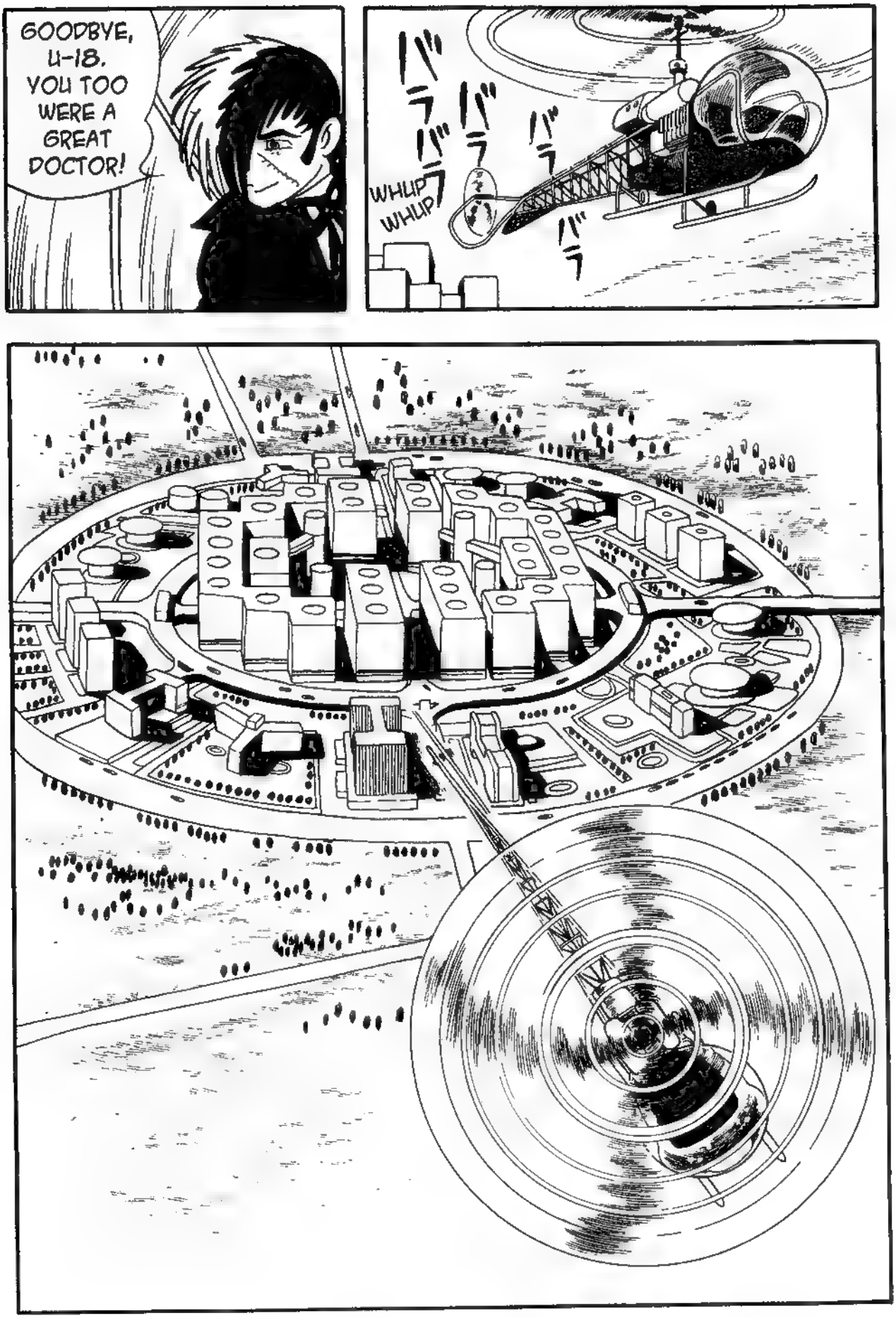

GREAT. WE'VE LOST A LOT OF TIME.
SURGERY'S OVER... HOW DO YOU FEEL, U-18?
CLOSING UP THE WOUND.
SHOULD BE FINE NOW.

KCHIK
WHAT AM I SAYING? IT'S UNCONSCIOUS SO IT CAN'T DO THAT.
GO AHEAD AND POWER UP.
YOU LIED TO ME, U-18!
YOU LEFT SOME OF YOUR PARTS POWERED ON, DIDN'T YOU?
WAIT, THE POWER WENT BACK ON?!
WITH THE SHUTTING OF UNIT 5.
I SET MYSELF TO TURN BACK ON
THAT IS NOT TRUE.
DID YOU PROTECT ME DURING THE OPERATION, DOCTOR?
I'M DONE. ADIEU.
I SEE. THAT WAS CLEVER OF YOU.


...
IS THAT RIGHT? JUST OPEN THE DOOR.
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT IN THE CONTROL CENTER.
ARE YOU TRYING TO LOCK ME IN?!
OPEN UP!!
I AM SEARCHING.
PLEASE WAIT.
PLEASE WAIT.
WORDS OF THANKS TO YOU. EXPRESSIONS THAT I HAVE NEVER USED BEFORE.
WHAT ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?!
THIS ...
PLEASE SEE

I COULD NOT FIND THE WORDS ...
SO I WANTED TO THANK YOU FACE-TO-FACE.
WHAT NOW? WHOSE FACE IS THAT?
IT WAS SYNTHESIZED BY ME A MOMENT AGO.
I CAME TO KNOW YOU.
I REALIZED ...
THROUGH THOSE 100 QUESTIONS ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO... HEH HEH!
HUMAN DOCTORS RETIRE, TOO, DON'T THEY? IF THEY ARE SICK?
I WILL RETIRE.
PLEASE TELL DR. WHATMAN FOR ME.
I COULD ONLY EXAMINE AND TREAT PEOPLE *MECHANICALLY*.
AND ALSO THAT IT TAKES A HUMAN TO TREAT A HUMAN.
THAT I COULD NEVER FEEL LIKE A HUMAN DOCTOR

GOODBYE. YOU ARE A GREAT DOCTOR.
TIME TO HIRE SOME HUMAN DOCTORS HERE.
SO LONG.
BUT THE SICKNESS WILL MOST LIKELY RECUR.
FOR NOW ...
U-18 HAS CHOSEN TO RETIRE!
AND SO
I-IS IT FIXED ?
DR. BLACK JACK !!
バラバラバラ
WHUP
WHUP
バラバラバラ


GOODBYE, U-18. YOU TOO WERE A GREAT DOCTOR!
バラバラ
バラ
バラ
WHUP WHUP
バラ

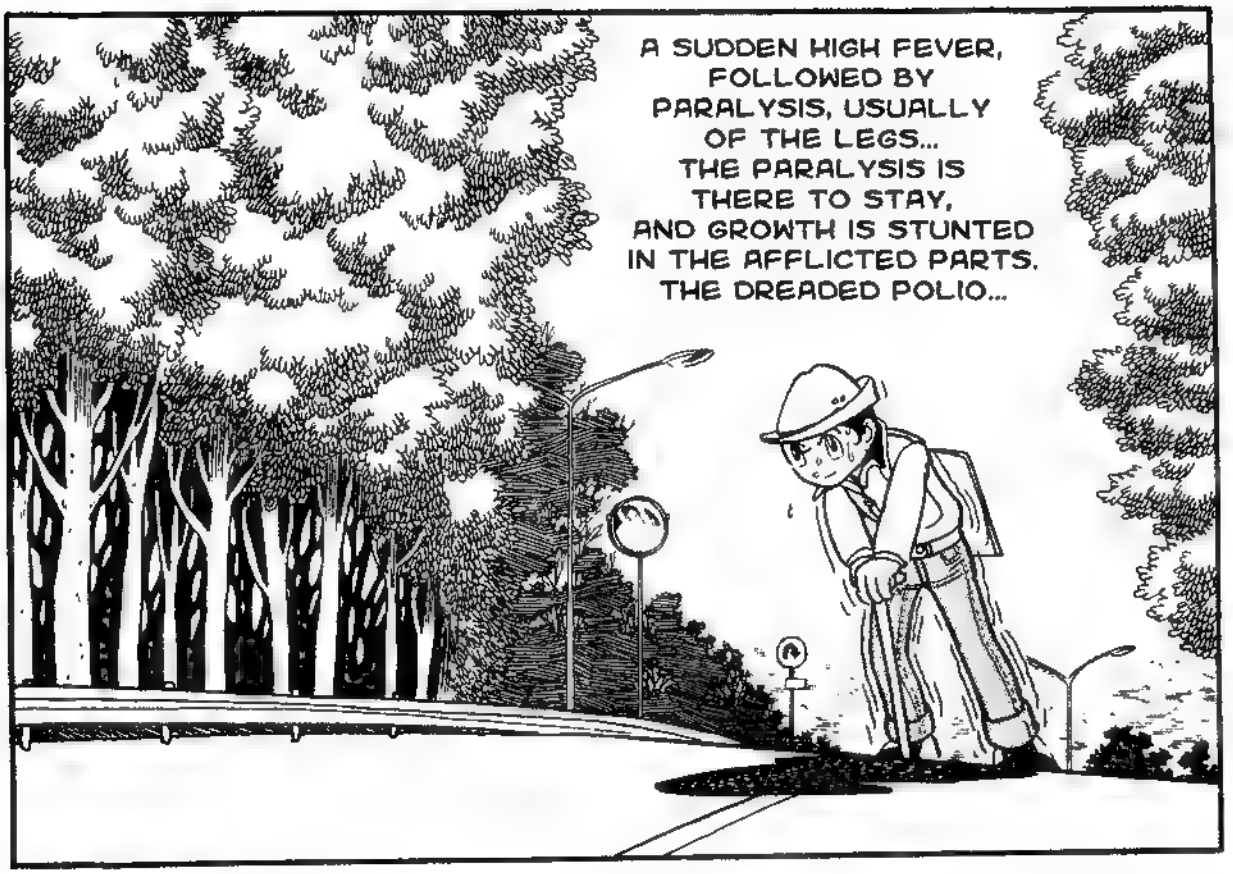
THE LEGS OF AN ANT

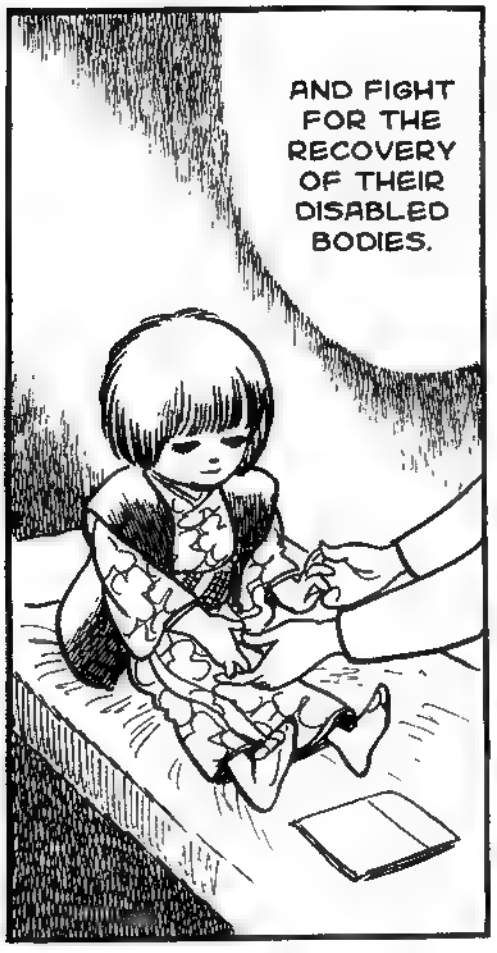
COME ON, MR. ANT! YOU CAN DO IT! PULL YOURSELF UP!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!
NOW, WALK! THAT'S RIGHT! STAND UP AND WALK!
LOOK, HE'S DRAGGING HIS FEET BUT HE'S WALKING!
ALL RIGHT!!

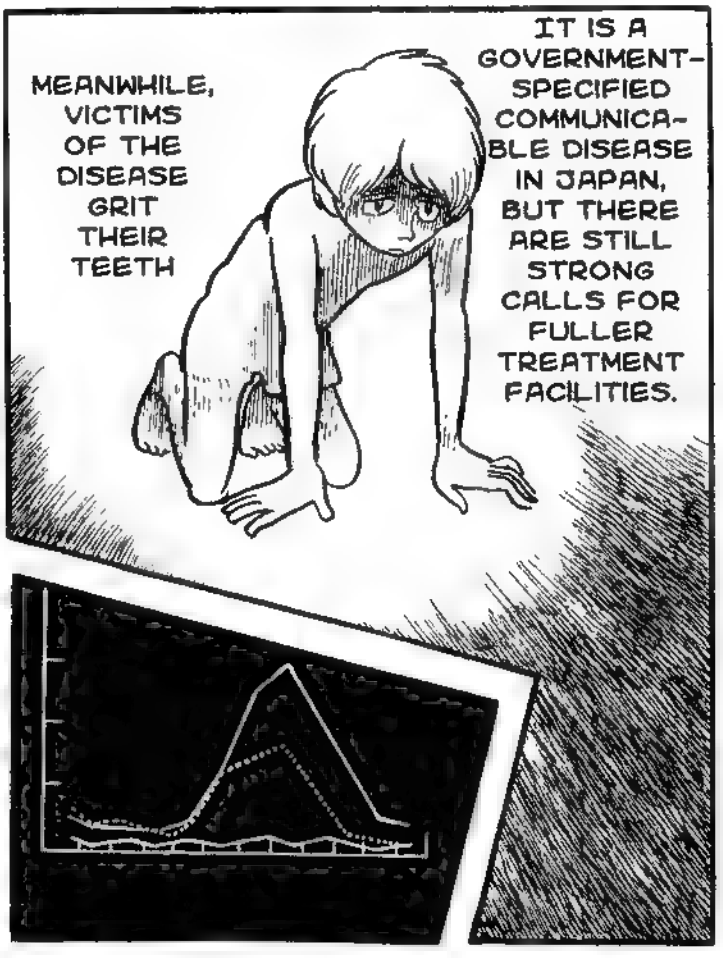
HERE I GO. I'LL SEND WORD AT EACH TOWN, SO DON'T COME FOLLOWING AFTER ME.
YOU GOT IT! GOOD LUCK!
MITSUO SEND-OFF
光男君の壮行
YAN
I'LL BE FINE, MOTHER!
BE CAREFUL! IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, CALL US RIGHT AWAY!

LEAVE ME ALONE!! I WANT TO TEST MYSELF. STAND BACK AND LET ME!
YAY
YAY
HEH HEH... WHAT A MOMENT TO BE REMINDED OF THAT ANT...
ぼくは小児麻痺です しかし なおすためにがんばっています おなじ病気のこどもへ はげましをおねがい!

SIGN: "I HAVE *POLIO*, BUT I'M FIGHTING TO GET BETTER. YOUR CHEERS, PLEASE, TO ALL KIDS WHO HAVE POLIO!"


A SUDDEN HIGH FEVER, FOLLOWED BY PARALYSIS, USUALLY OF THE LEGS... THE PARALYSIS IS THERE TO STAY, AND GROWTH IS STUNTED IN THE AFFLICTED PARTS. THE DREADED POLIO...

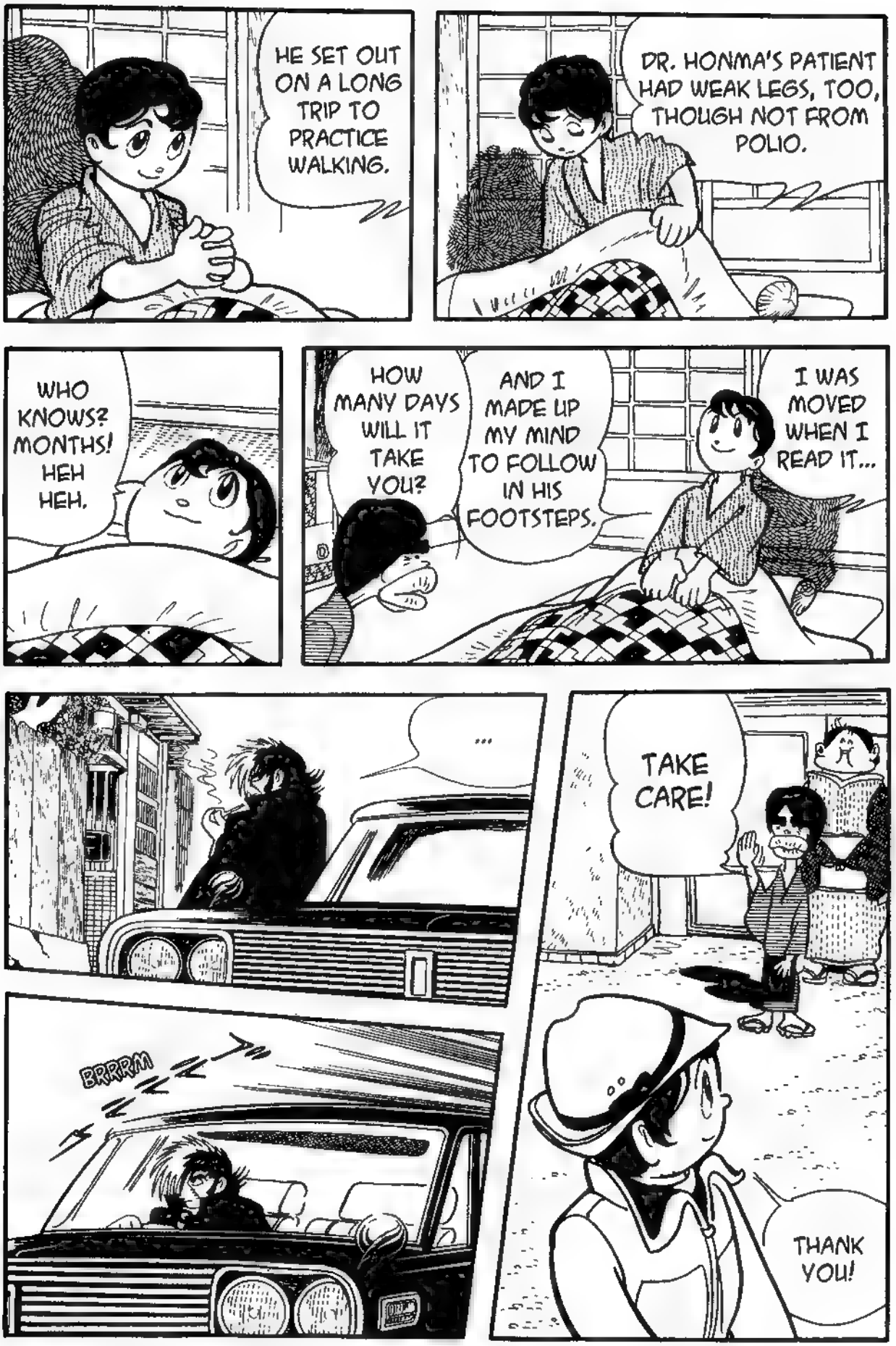

AND FIGHT FOR THE RECOVERY OF THEIR DISABLED BODIES.

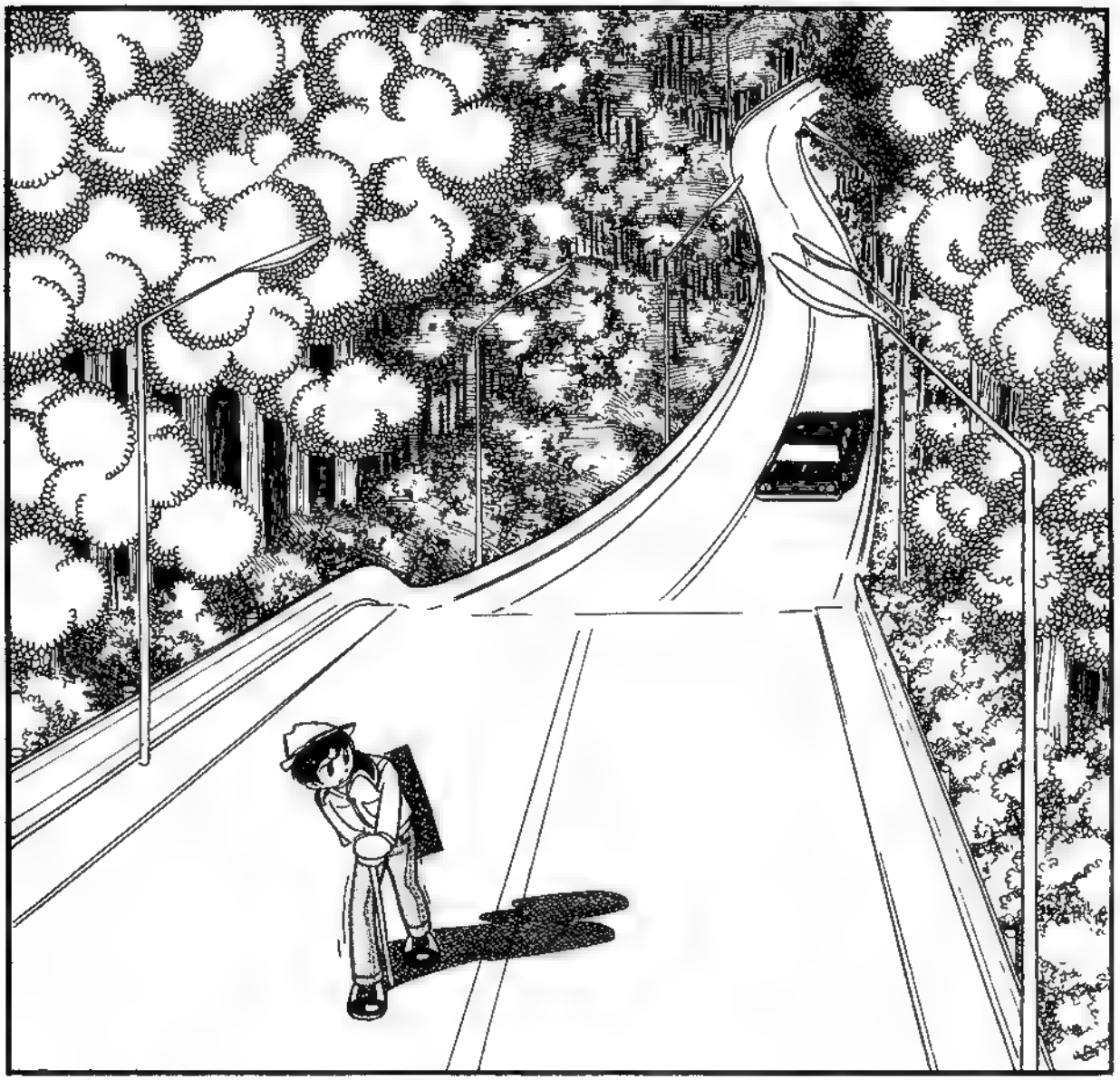

MEANWHILE, VICTIMS OF THE DISEASE GRIT THEIR TEETH
IT IS A GOVERNMENT-SPECIFIED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN JAPAN, BUT THERE ARE STILL STRONG CALLS FOR FULLER TREATMENT FACILITIES.

HE SETS OUT ON A TRIP
AFTER LONG AND PAINFUL TRAINING,
IN THIS BOY'S CASE,
FROM HIROSHIMA TO OSAKA, ON FOOT,
TO RAISE AWARE-NESS ABOUT POLIO.
ZAW
ZAW

PSST—IS THAT BOY...
"WHISPER WHISPER"
GOOD LUCK! I'M ROOTIN' FOR YA!
I KNOW THAT GUY—HE'S BLACK JACK, THE GREEDY DOCTOR WHO'LL CURE YOU ONLY IF YOU'RE RICH.
WHAT'S HE DOING OUT HERE?
HFF
HFF

旅館ごろう
GORO INN
IF I HAD ONE WITH ME, I'D FEEL LIKE DEPENDING ON HIM.
YOU SURE IT'S WISE? WALKIN' SUCH A WAYS WITHOUT A DOCTOR ALONG...
PEOPLE WON'T GET IT THAT POLIO VICTIMS HAVE GUTS.
IF I HAVE A BIG GROUP OF HELPERS,
BUT I'LL GO THROUGH WITH IT ANYWAY.
I KNOW THIS IS A BIT OUTLANDISH ...
IT'S BY JOTARO HONMA. IT'S ABOUT A BOY WHO HAD A DISABILITY.
RECORD OF A DISABLED PATIENT
EVER HEAR OF THIS BOOK?


HE SET OUT ON A LONG TRIP TO PRACTICE WALKING.
DR. HONMA'S PATIENT HAD WEAK LEGS, TOO, THOUGH NOT FROM POLIO.
WHO KNOWS? MONTHS! HEH HEH.
HOW MANY DAYS WILL IT TAKE YOU?
AND I MADE UP MY MIND TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.
I WAS MOVED WHEN I READ IT...
...
BRRRM
TAKE CARE!
THANK YOU!

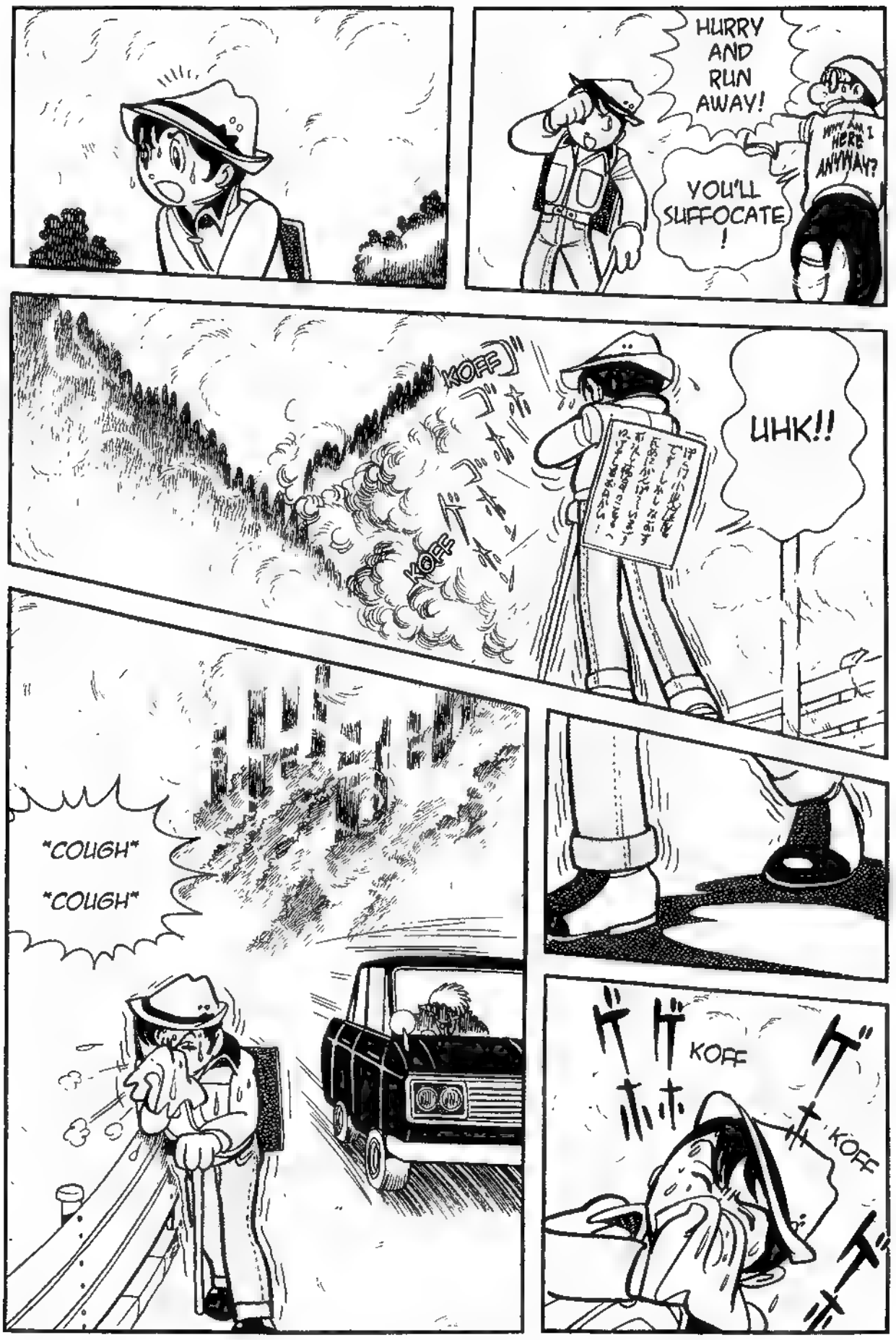


NO-
THING.
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

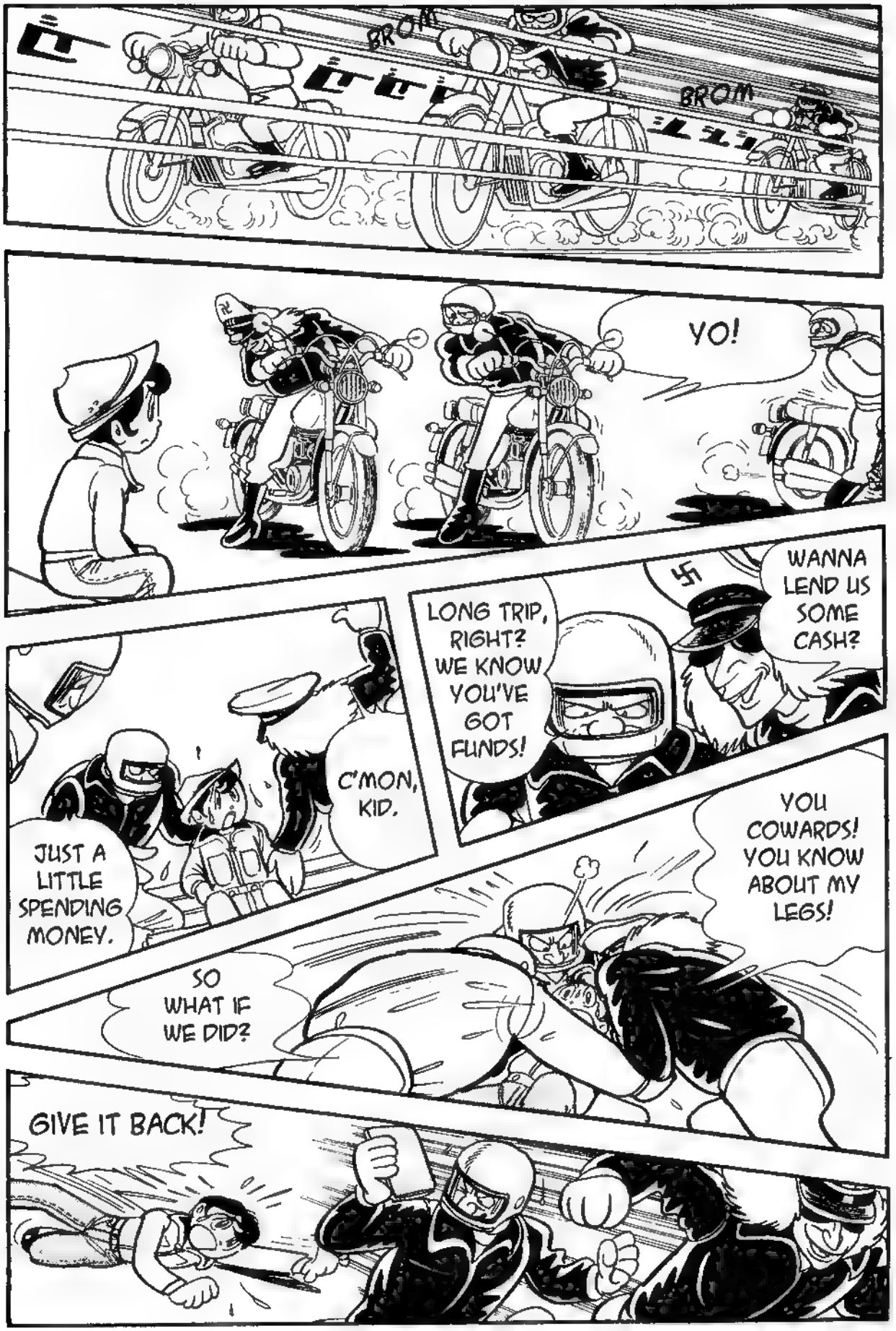
YEAH, YOU'RE A DOC-TOR JUST FOR RICH FOLKS!

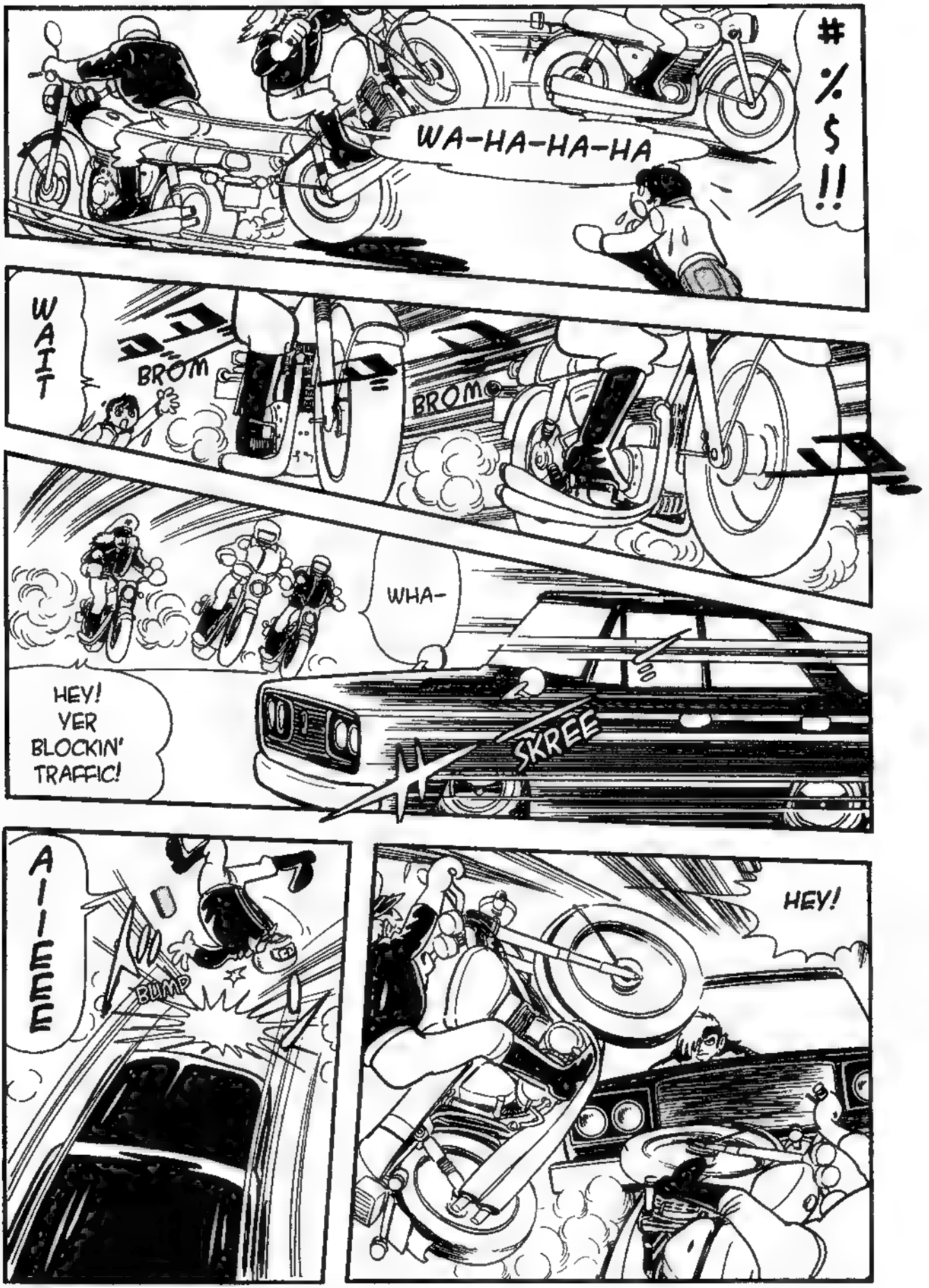
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, THEN.
THEN I'LL THANK YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE, DR. BLACK JACK.

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO SELL YOUR NAME THAT WAY, THEN BUTT OFF.
SURE, WHEN I GET TO OSAKA, THERE'LL BE A LOT OF NEWS-MEN AND MAYBE I'LL BE IN THE PAPERS.
IF YOU'RE THINKING TO TAKE CARE OF ME, FORGET IT
BECAUSE I'M NOT RICH!
TO WATCH.
THEN WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?!
I DON'T INTEND TO TREAT YOU OR TO SEEK MEDIA ATTENTION.
FOREST FIRE! RUN!!
YOU'LL CHOKE ON THE SMOKE!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
JUST GETTING YOUR YUKS, HUH?
...

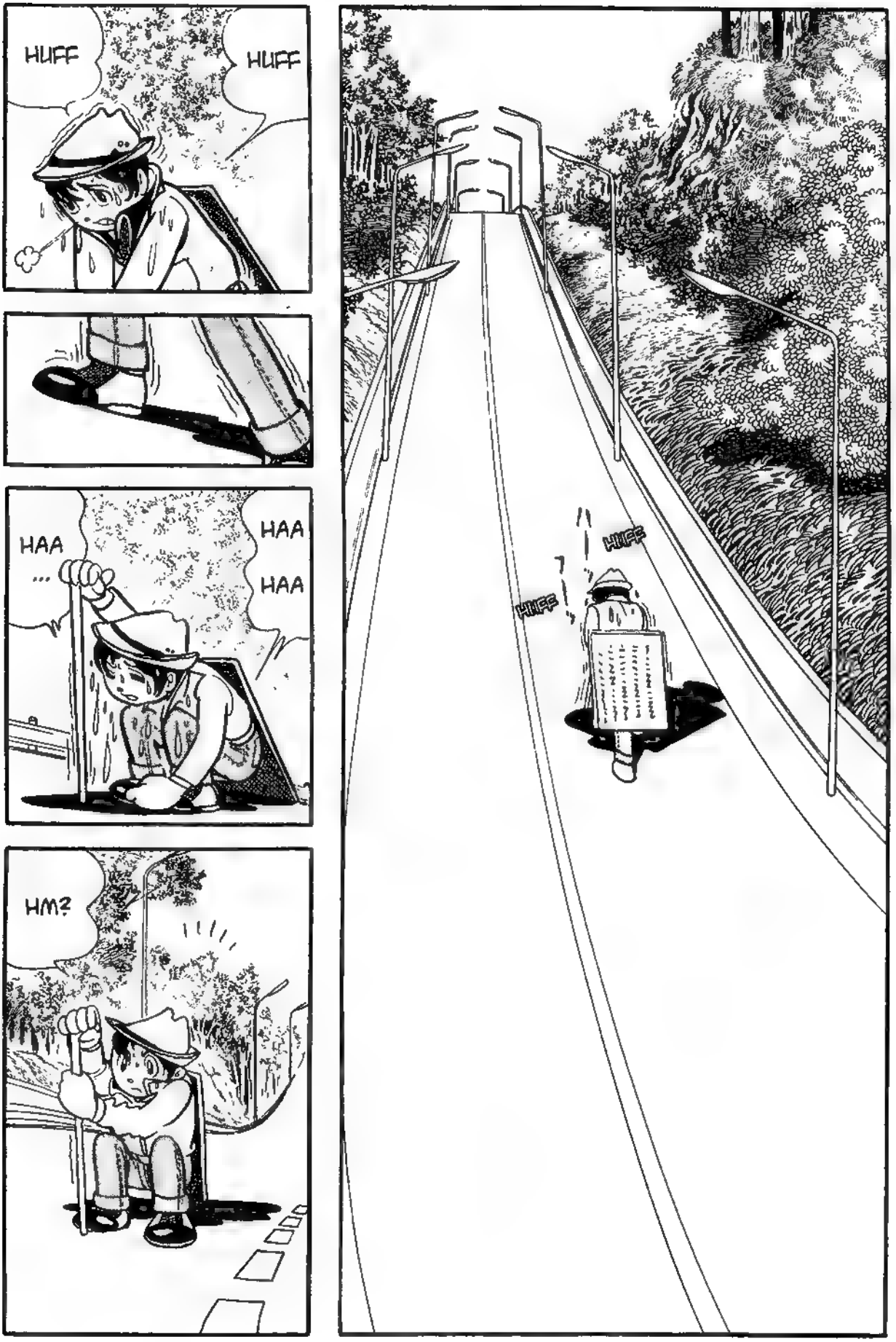

HURRY AND RUN AWAY!
YOU'LL SUFFOCATE!
WHY AM I HERE ANYWAY?
KOFF
KOFF
UHK!!
"COUGH"
"COUGH"
KOFF
KOFF

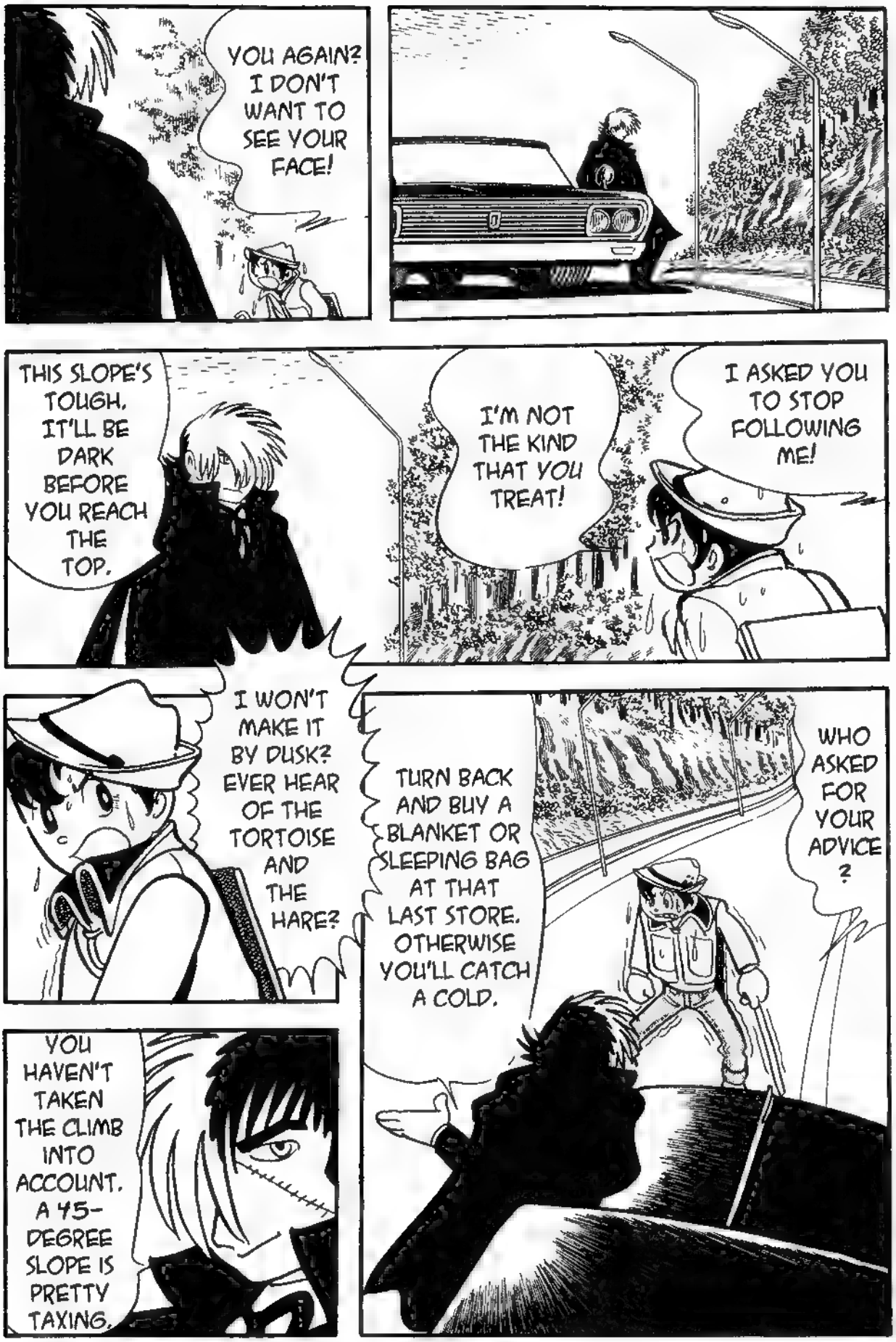
WHY, YOU ...!!
THEN YOU CAN CRAWL.
WANT A LIFT?
NO!
I CAN BREATHE BETTER ...
CRAWL... I GET IT! SMOKE RISES!
PHEW!
WOEEE
WOEEE
BRUMMM


BROM
BROM
YO!
WANNA LEND US SOME CASH?
LONG TRIP, RIGHT? WE KNOW YOU'VE GOT FUNDS!
C'MON, KID.
JUST A LITTLE SPENDING MONEY.
YOU COWARDS! YOU KNOW ABOUT MY LEGS!
SO WHAT IF WE DID?
GIVE IT BACK!


WA-HA-HA-HA
#%$!!
WAIT
BROM
BROM
WHA-
HEY! YER BLOCKIN' TRAFFIC!
SKREE
AIIEEE
BUMP
HEY!

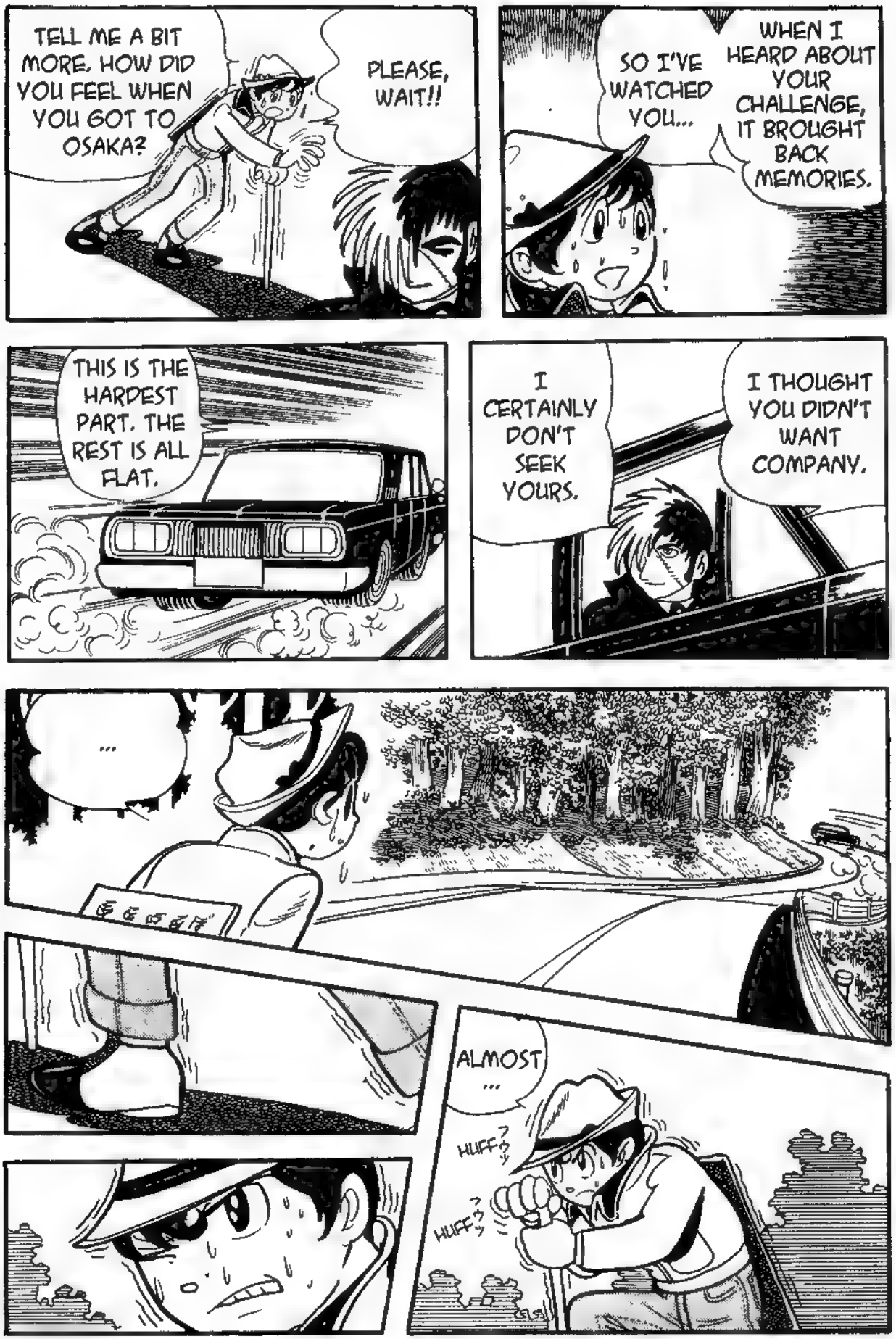
BROM
Y-YOU'LL BE SORRY!!
HUH ?!
IT'S MY WALLET !!
BRRMM

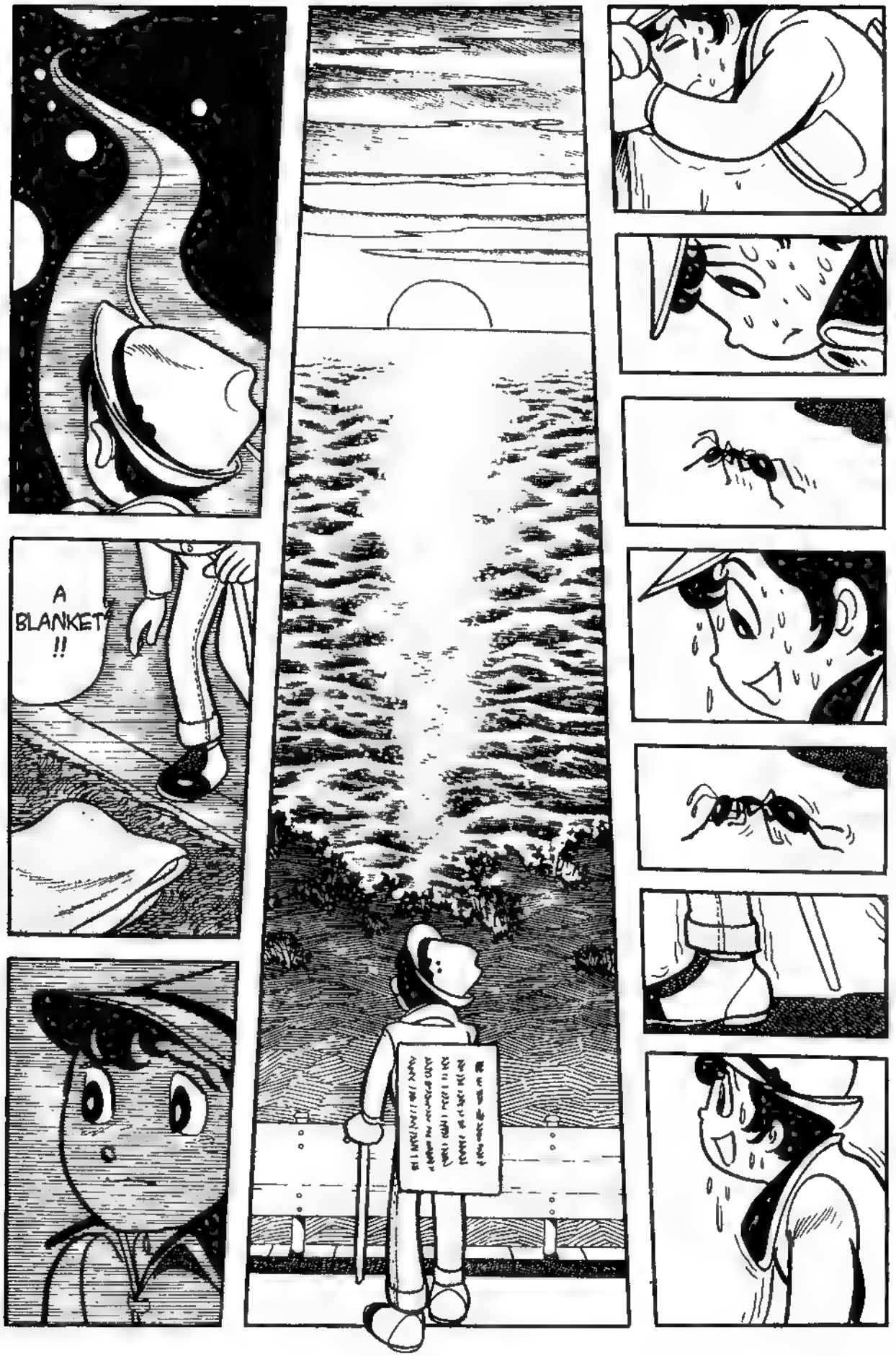

HUFF
HUFF
HAA
...
HAA
HAA
HM?
HUFF
HUFF


YOU AGAIN? I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE!
THIS SLOPE'S TOUGH. IT'LL BE DARK BEFORE YOU REACH THE TOP.
I'M NOT THE KIND THAT YOU TREAT!
I ASKED YOU TO STOP FOLLOWING ME!
I WON'T MAKE IT BY DUSK? EVER HEAR OF THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE?
TURN BACK AND BUY A BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG AT THAT LAST STORE. OTHERWISE YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
WHO ASKED FOR YOUR ADVICE?
YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN THE CLIMB INTO ACCOUNT. A 45-DEGREE SLOPE IS PRETTY TAXING.

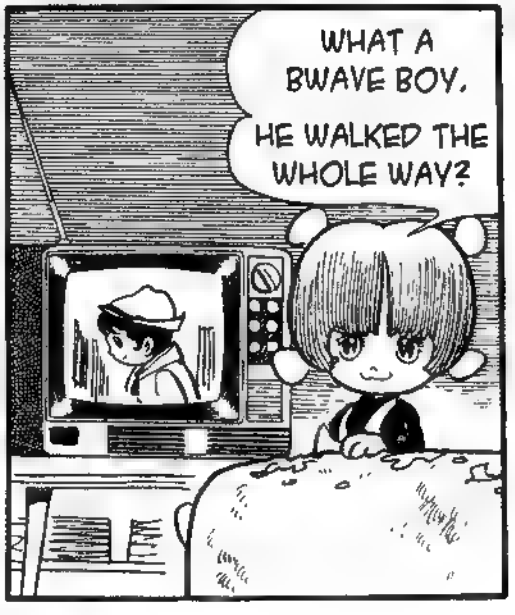
HUFF
HUFF
THEN YOU DON'T KNOW ME. I CAN HANDLE IT.
YOU WON'T MAKE IT.
HAA
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT BIT MADE IT INTO THE BOOK.
THE SUN'LL SET AT A CURVE UP AHEAD.
GASP
DR. HONMA DIDN'T KNOW THIS PART ...
THERE WAS A TREE TO SLEEP UNDER AT THAT CURVE, BUT NOW IT'S GONE.
YOU'VE READ THAT BOOK TOO?
DON'T TELL ME
THAT PATIENT IS... YOU!
THE PATIENT... IN THAT BOOK...
DON'T TELL ME ...

DR. HONMA, TO WHOM I OWE MY LIFE, KINDLY RECORDED THE TRIP.
THE ROUTE YOU'RE TAKING IS THE EXACT SAME ONE I ONCE WALKED.
HOW ARE YOU DIS-ABLED?
BUT YOU WALK JUST FINE!!
I FOUGHT LIKE CRAZY TO RECLAIM MY BODY.
DR. HONMA WAS MY ATTENDING PHSYICIAN. MY BODY WAS IN SHREDS, AND HE HAD TO SEW IT BACK TOGETHER.
I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT. I LOST THE USE OF ALL MY LIMBS.
THE TREK WAS A STEP ALONG THE WAY.

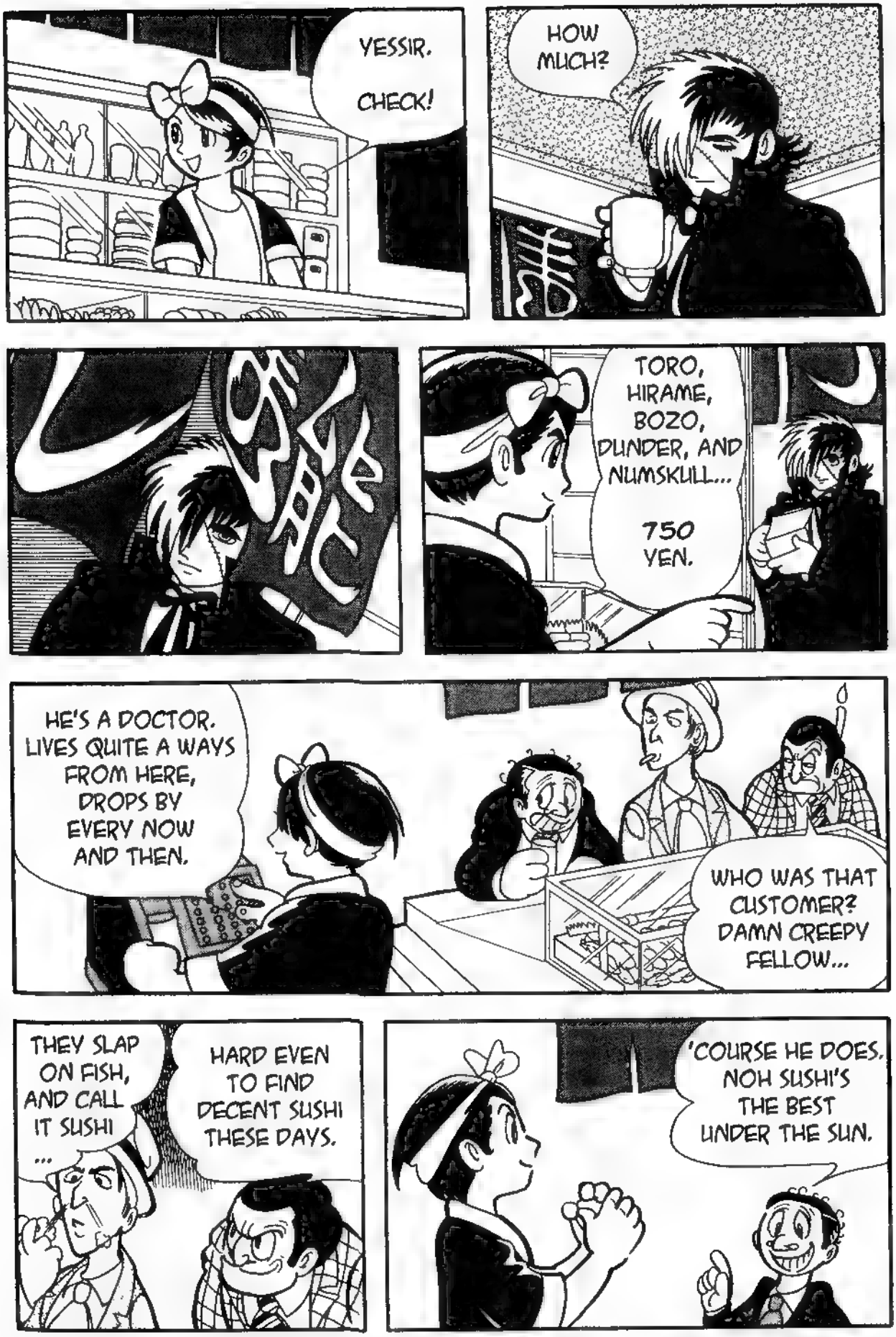

TELL ME A BIT MORE. HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU GOT TO OSAKA?
PLEASE, WAIT!!
SO I'VE WATCHED YOU...
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOUR CHALLENGE, IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES.
THIS IS THE HARDEST PART. THE REST IS ALL FLAT.
I CERTAINLY DON'T SEEK YOURS.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT COMPANY.
...
ALMOST ...
HUFF
HUFF


A BLANKET !!

THIS YOUNG MAN, WHO WALKED ALL THE WAY HERE TO OSAKA FROM FAR-AWAY HIROSHIMA, IS A VICTIM OF POLIO. UNDAUNTED BY HIS DISABILITY AND TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT...


WHAT A BWAVE BOY.
HE WALKED THE WHOLE WAY?

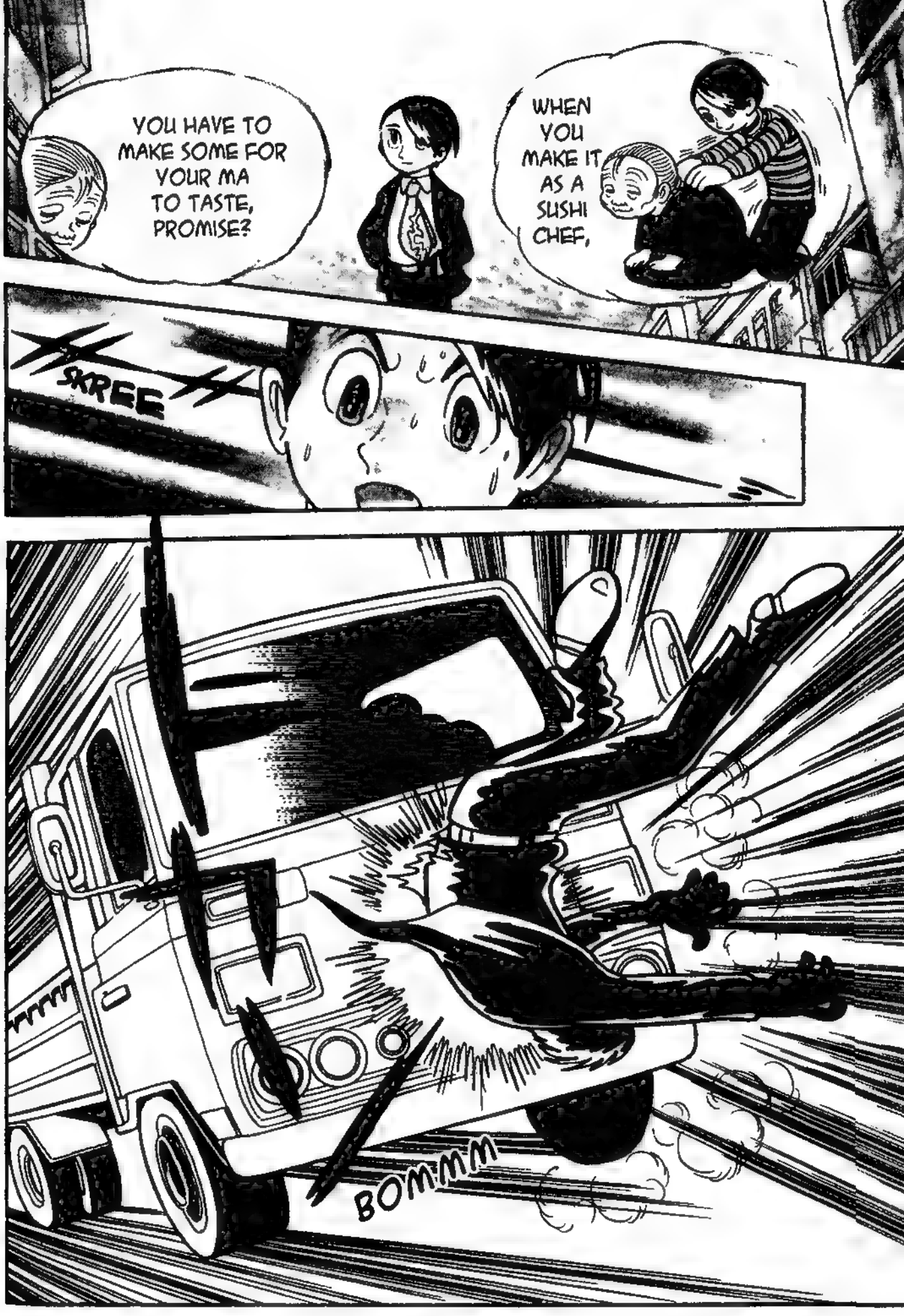
TWO LOVES


YESSIR.
CHECK!
HOW MUCH?
TORO, HIRAME, BOZO, DUNDER, AND NUMSKULL...
750 YEN.
HE'S A DOCTOR. LIVES QUITE A WAYS FROM HERE, DROPS BY EVERY NOW AND THEN.
WHO WAS THAT CUSTOMER? DAMN CREEPY FELLOW...
THEY SLAP ON FISH, AND CALL IT SUSHI ...
HARD EVEN TO FIND DECENT SUSHI THESE DAYS.
'COURSE HE DOES. NOH SUSHI'S THE BEST UNDER THE SUN.

NOTE: "TORO" = FATTY TUNA; "HIRAME" = FLOUNDER. THE OTHER NAMES, OBVIOUSLY, ARE JOKES—NOT THE CHEF'S BUT THE AUTHOR'S.

LIKE IN THAT RAKUGO ROU-TINE, YOU MEAN?
LIKE I'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE? TRYING TO FLUSTER ME SO I MIGHT CHARGE YOU LESS?
HA HA HA, WHY DO I FEEL...
WHILE TAKU HERE'S SKILLS ARE NO. 1!
SURE. GOTTA BE GOOD TO YOUR MA.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, BOSS. MY MA'LL BE CELEBRATING HER SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY SOON AND I'D LIKE SOME TIME OFF.
COME AGAIN!
THANK YOU!
HAVE A NICE TRIP HOME!
THIS PLACE WOULDN'T BE HALF AS POPULAR WITHOUT YOU.

NOTE: *RAKUGO* IS A TRADITIONAL FORM OF JAPANESE ENTERTAINMENT BY A SINGLE PERFORMER (AKIN TO "STAND-UP COMEDY," BUT THE SPEAKER IS SEATED)


YOU HAVE TO MAKE SOME FOR YOUR MA TO TASTE, PROMISE?
WHEN YOU MAKE IT AS A SUSHI CHEF,
SKREE
BOMMM

WHUDD
SCREECH
I DUN IT!!

YOU'RE LUCKY HE'S NOT DEAD, OR YOU'D BE IN DEEPER TROUBLE. COME!
ガヤ
HUB
ガヤ
ガヤ
BUB
ガヤ
WHO GOT HIT?
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S TAKU ...
THAT'S TAKU OF NOH SUSHI!

DARLING!
RITSUKO, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE.
OH, DARLING! A GOOD MAN LIKE YOU... WHY?!
PLAIN BAD LUCK. I WASN'T DRUNK, AND I HADN'T DOZED OFF EITHER. IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS.

THE VICTIM SURVIVED, BUT BOTH OF HIS ARMS HAVE BEEN AMPUTATED.
AND YET, YOU RAN HIM OVER.
NO PREVIOUS OFFENSES, NO ACCI-DENTS. A MODEL DRIVER.
AKIRA ARIMA... A DUMP TRUCK DRIVER.
WHAT?
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY LIABLE, BUT ODDLY ENOUGH, THE VICTIM HAS INSISTED THAT THE CHARGES BE DROPPED.
WANT TO MEET HIM?
DEFINITELY A FIRST. A MAN WHO'S LOST HIS ARMS IS COVERING FOR YOU SO YOU CAN BE RULED INNOCENT.
VERY WELL ...
I WANT TO ASK HIM WHY.
YES, BY ALL MEANS!

...
I DO HAVE... ONE NAGGING REGRET, THOUGH ...
I PROMISED MY MA BACK HOME THAT ONE DAY I'D MAKE HER THE BEST SUSHI IN JAPAN.
...
AS YOU CAN SEE, I WON'T BE DOING THAT ANYMORE.
I'M A SUSHI CHEF. SOMEHOW I WAS ABLE TO HONE MY SKILLS TO THE POINT THAT FOLKS CAME VISITING FROM AFAR TO HAVE MY SUSHI.
BUT I BEAR NO GRUDGE TOWARD YOU.

FEEL FREE TO SAY NO, BUT I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU. BE MY HANDS PLEASE.
I NEED HANDS TO REPLACE MY OWN.
MY MA'S OLD. SOON, SUSHI WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR HER.
STUDY UNDER ME UNTIL YOU HAVE IT DOWN PERFECTLY.
WH-WHAT? I'M JUST AN OL' TRUCK DRIVER. SUSHI'S BEYOND ME!
MAKE THE BEST SUSHI IN JAPAN IN MY STEAD.
NOW I GET IT... WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM...
I'D LIKE YOU TO MAKE SOME SUSHI FOR MY MA TO TASTE. WILL YOU?
AFTER A FEW YEARS, WHEN YOU'VE INHERITED MY TOUCH AND FLAVOR...
YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM!
IF THESE HANDS WILL DO ...

FIRST, HOW TO MAKE SUSHI RICE.
WHAT KINDA TASTE IS THIS?
OH NO— I'M DOING FINE. HEH...
SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE ACCIDENT...
I DOUBT ANYONE COULD MASTER YOUR FLAVOR.
I'LL TRAIN HIM TO BE THE BEST.
MY APPREN-TICE!
WHO'S THAT?
YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR ME. I'D HAVE SAVED YOUR ARMS...

LIKE THIS !!
TAKU, AKIRA, GO TO SLEEP. WE'VE GOT BIZNESS DURING THE DAY.
NO, NO! YOU OAF!
THAT'S NOT A STEERING WHEEL IN YOUR HANDS!
CAN'T BE DONE— TAKING A TOTAL AMATEUR TO TAKU'S LEVEL...
SHOOP

IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE SUSHI, BUT TRYING TO BE-COME AS GOOD AS HIM?

BUT YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU? I WANT TO BE OF USE TO HIM!
DARLING, YOU'RE GOING TO COLLAPSE.

YOUR HANDS ...

THESE HANDS ARE GOING TO MAKE THE BEST SUSHI IN JAPAN, SO HIS MA CAN TASTE IT.

THESE DAYS I THINK MAYBE I CAN. LOOK!

NO, IT SMELLS LIKE YOU.
SNIFF IT— SMELLS LIKE SUSHI, HUH?
WONDERFUL BIG HANDS ...
WHEN WE FIRST MET, I WAS SO DRAWN TO THESE
I'M SORRY, RITSUKO. I'M HARDLY EVER HOME; I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LONELY.
BEAR IT...JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
HEY BOSS! COME HAVE A BITE!

YESSS!
YOU THINK SO? WE'VE COME THAT FAR?
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU USED TO MAKE IT.
HM!!
THESE HANDS ARE TAKU'S, SO YOU NEED TO TELL HIM.
HEY, ONE MORE HIKARI. IT TASTES FABULOUS, YOU KNOW THAT?
HIKARI, ONE ORDER!
HIKARI!
A TEAM? WE'RE TWO IN ONE!
NEVER SEEN SUCH A TAG TEAM.
SHLIP

NOTE: "HIKARI," WHICH MEANS *SHINE*, IS SUSHI-RESTAURANT ARGOT FOR SHINY FISH SERVED WITH THE SKIN, MOST COMMONLY GIZZARD SHAD. CONNOISSEURS BEGIN WITH IT.

MA!
TAKUYA
YOU DID COME
NMM
NMM
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU MY SUSHI NOW, MA. THE BEST IN JAPAN!
HERE ...
POM
MUNCH
MUNCH
FIP
FIP

AAA
TAKU...
IT TASTES SO GOOD.
MM...
YUM...
HOW IS IT, MA? YOUR SIGHT MAY BE SHOT, BUT YOU CAN STILL TASTE, YES?
TAKU... I'M PROUD OF YOU.
I'LL MAKE IT THE BEST SUSHI PLACE IN JAPAN!
MY BOSS SAYS HE'LL TURN THE PLACE OVER TO ME.
THANK YOU, AKIRA-SAN...
WE DIDN'T TRICK HER. I USED MY HANDS, AFTER ALL!
I FEEL A LITTLE BAD— LIKE WE TRICKED YOUR MA.

BYE BYE, DUMP TRUCK!
TAKU AND I ARE GONNA RUN THE PLACE TOGETHER. BETCHA WE CAN.
YUP. I GUESS TAKU NEVER TOLD HIS MA HE LOST HIS ARMS. HER EYES ARE SO BAD SHE DIDN'T NOTICE.
SOUNDS LIKE SHE WAS REALLY GLAD ...
BE HOME SOON!
YOU DO THAT. WE'RE THE BEST!
I'LL COME EVERY DAY.
J-JUST BY THAT ALLEY... BY A TRUCK!
AKIRA?! RUN OVER?!
WHAT?!

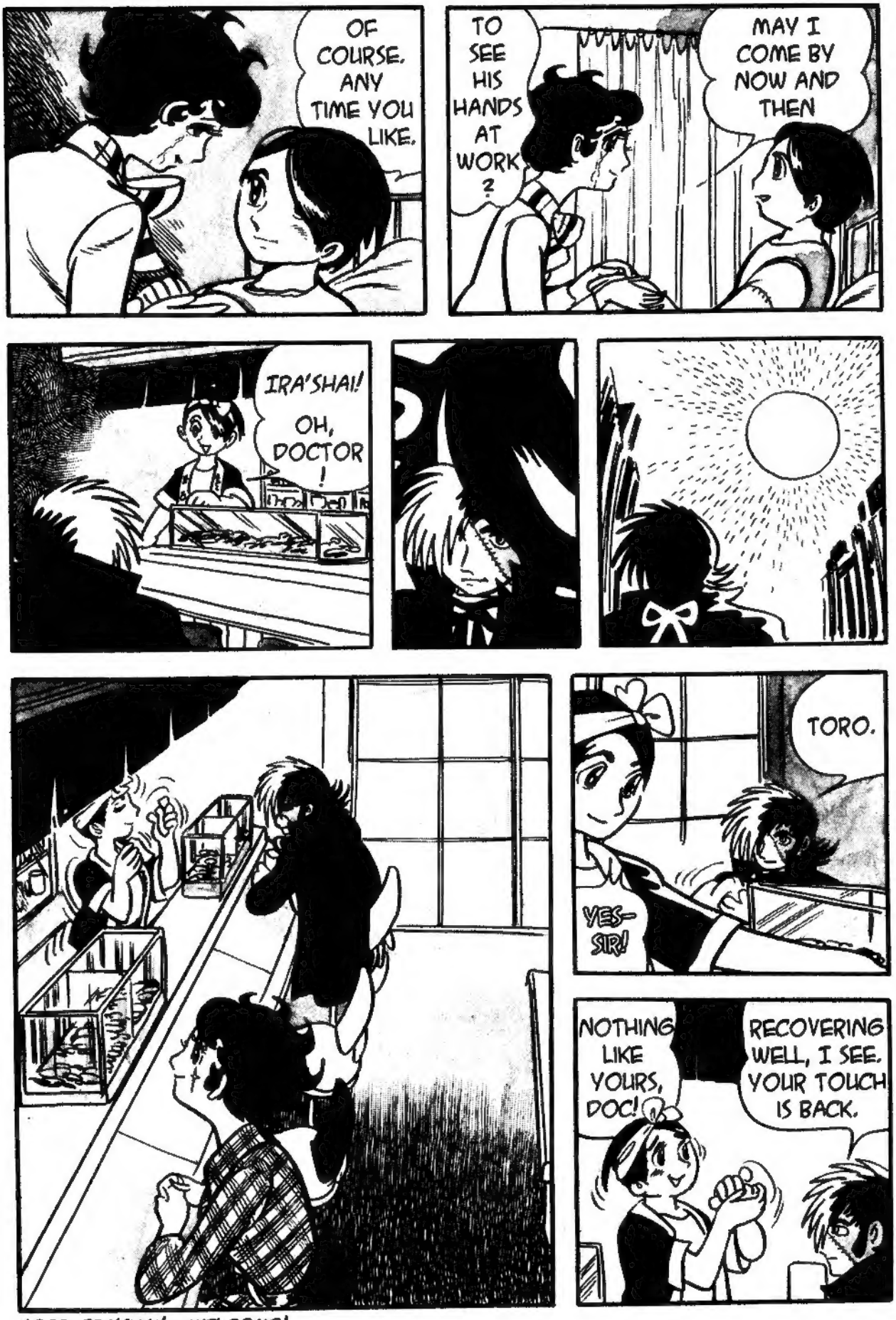
NO USE. HE WAS KILLED INSTANTLY
MY HANDS...
MY HANDS...
I'VE LOST MY HANDS ALL OVER AGAIN!!

IF JUST HIS HANDS COULD LIVE ON THROUGH TAKU... I'D BE HAPPY.
YOU'RE A FAMOUS SURGEON, AREN'T YOU? PLEASE ATTACH MY HUSBAND'S ARMS TO TAKU.
I BEG YOU.
DOC-TOR
VERY EXPENSIVE, MRS. ARIMA.
ATTACHING ANOTHER PERSON'S ARMS, THAT'S A VERY DIFFICULT OPERATION.
I'M SURE IT'S WHAT MY HUSBAND WANTS, TOO.
THE SURGERY OF THE CENTURY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN— AN ATTEMPT TO TRANSPLANT A STRANGER'S ARMS. ALL OF JAPAN IS WISHING FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED, HERCULEAN OPERATION!
中央病院
BET THEY COULD REALLY USE A HAND!
I THINK THEY'LL FAIL
HOW MUCH... MIGHT IT...
WHEN THOSE HANDS MAKE ME SOME GREAT SUSHI, WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.
HA HA. NOT TO WORRY.

PROCAINE INJECTION.
HAND ME AKIRA'S ARM.
DOUBLE LIGATE BLOOD VESSELS AND SEVER.
KRCH
KRCH
I'LL DO THIS PART ALONE.
SUTURE OF NERVE FASCICLES AND BLOOD VESSELS.

SO IT CAN'T BE DONE?
BUT A HUMAN HAND IS MORE COMPLEX THAN A DOG'S PAW.
THE SOVIETS CUT OFF A DOG'S LEG AND ATTACHED ONE FROM ANOTHER. IT WORKED ...
IT SIMPLY WON'T WORK!
THEN I WON'T GET MY HOPES UP.
EVEN IF THEY'RE JOINED, THEY FAIL TO FUNCTION!
MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE NERVES.
OP'S OVER.
WHEN THE BANDAGE COMES OFF.
ASK ME AGAIN...
HOW DID IT GO?!

AFTER REHAB, HE'LL BE ABLE TO FOR SURE.
HE CAN MOVE THEM ?
IT WORKED ?
HOLY!
YOU LIVE ON...
I'M SO GLAD... SO...GLAD...
SO GLAD FOR YOU...
MY DAR-LING ...


OF COURSE. ANY TIME YOU LIKE.
MAY I COME BY NOW AND THEN
TO SEE HIS HANDS AT WORK?
IRA'SHAI! OH, DOCTOR!
TORO.
YES-SIR!
NOTHING LIKE YOURS, DOC!
RECOVERING WELL, I SEE. YOUR TOUCH IS BACK.

NOTE: *IRA'SHAI!* = WELCOME!

WRONG WAY!

Japanese books, including manga like this one,
are meant to be read from right to left.

So the front cover is actually the back cover, and vice-versa.

To read this book, please flip it over and start in the top right-hand corner.
Read the panels, and the bubbles in the panels, from right to left,
then drop down to the next row and repeat.

It may make you dizzy at first,
but forcing your brain to do things backwards makes you smarter in the long run.
We swear.

VERTICAL.

Black Jack
Volume 1

by Version4

Very soon I will release much more stuff but after that Black Jack will be my main project. The releases won't be on a regular basis and I don't know if I'll buy every book right after it is published (which is every two months).
Vertical is publishing the Black Jack chapters in the order that Tezuka indicated for the Akita Deluxe Edition but some chapters won't be included in this edition, 11 to be exact. It would be nice if some scanlators could release those some day.
If you want to know more about this edition of Black Jack go to Wikipedia, there is also a list of all the chapters (not) included, the order, etc.
One note to the double pages: I know that the two double pages in v5 and v6 shouldn't have this blank space between them but that's the way Vertical printed them, I just scanned.
Another note on the "unleveled" pages (e.g p000 in all the books): No, they aren't unleveled. Again this is the way Vertical printed it...